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Israelis open fire on Kurds

Three die as consulate is stormed

By TONY PATERSON IN BERLIN AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security guards shot dead three Kurdish protesters and injured 16 other people after an attempt to storm Israel's consulate in Berlin yesterday.

The shoot-out began shortly after 2pm local time after the Kurds, believed to be supporters of Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), tried to storm the building. One member of the consulate staff was briefly taken hostage.

Israel immediately shut all its diplomatic missions across Europe, and justified the killings as an act of "self-defence" taken in what had become a "situation of dire emergency".

Kenya, the scene of Mr Ocalan's arrest on Tuesday, also indefinitely closed all its embassies and consulates. Kurd protesters, blaming Nairobi in part for Ocalan's capture by Turkey, have attacked the Kenyan embassies in Paris, Vienna and Bonn, where they took two embassy staff members hostage. The Kenyan Foreign Ministry said the Kenyan tourist office in Frankfurt had also been attacked.

In Berlin, the bloodiest incident of the international protests by PKK sympathisers was sparked by allegations that Mossad, the Israeli secret service, had assisted Turkey in its capture of Mr Ocalan.

Police said that Israeli security guards opened fire on the group who tried to storm the

consulate, killing three men instantly. Sixteen others, including consulate staff, were injured, some seriously.

"About 20 Kurds rushed towards the building, toppling road signs and everything in their wake. Then nine shots rang out. Then there were another five shots and the protesters fled from the building," a witness said.

About 120 protesters were arrested outside the consulate in the suburb of Grünwald. A police spokesman said many were armed with metal bars. Several police were injured.

A Kurdish spokesman in Germany said: "It was decided to single out the Israeli consulate because the Turkish Prime Minister thanked the Israeli authorities for their help in apprehending Ocalan."

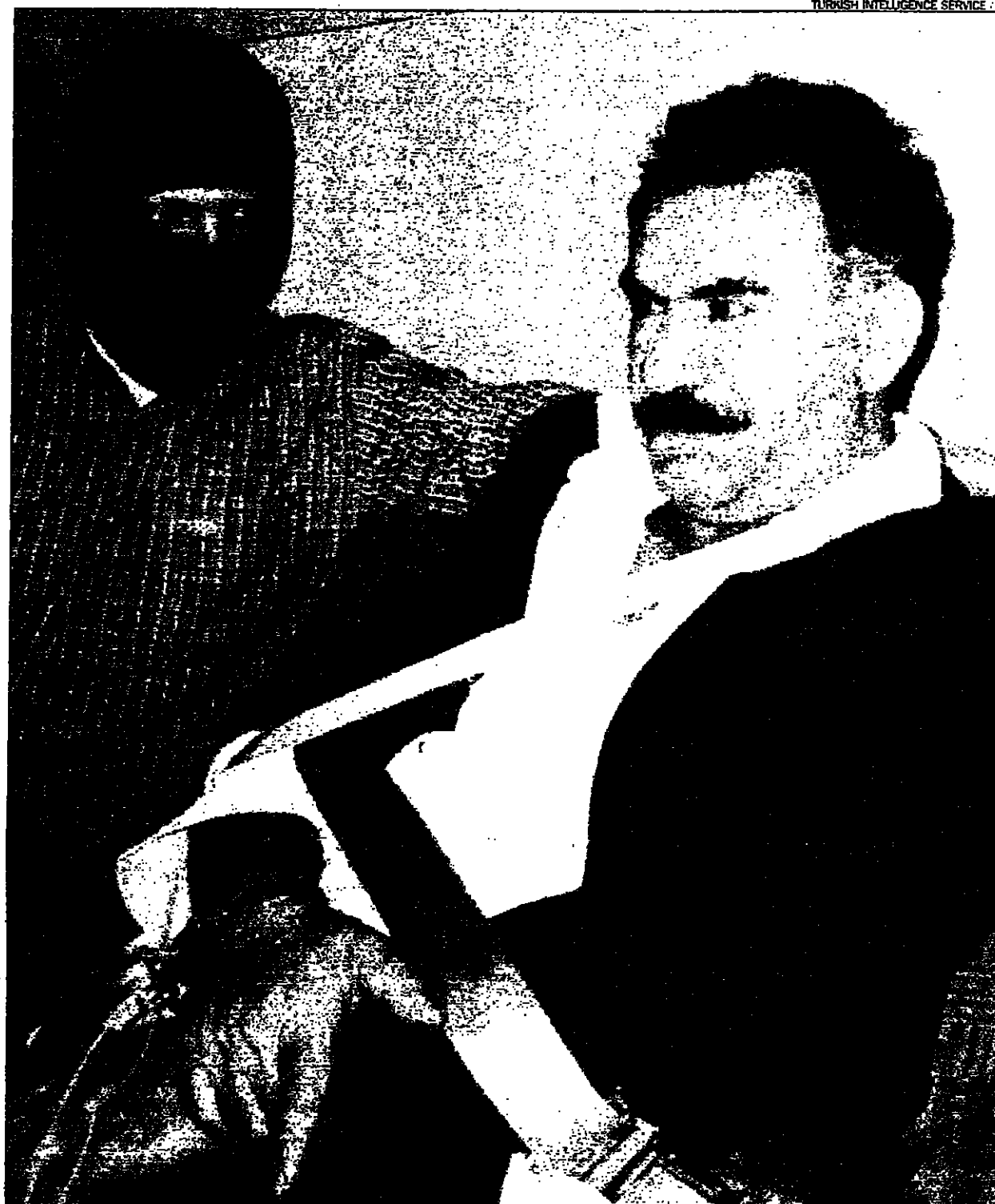
Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, denied that his country had any role in apprehending the PKK leader, accused of a terrorist campaign that has cost 30,000 lives over 14 years, and said that a campaign of "false accusations" was being waged against Israel.

"We did not co-operate with any element in Ocalan's capture... We have made this clear and emphasise this because this is the reality and this is the truth," he said.

Speaking in Tel Aviv hours after the shootings, Mr Netanyahu — who is campaigning for re-election in May under the slogan "A strong leader for a strong nation" — said: "Our people have standing orders to prevent, with force if necessary, any attempt to take hostages, any attempt to take hostages, and to defend themselves."

The Prime Minister said that dozens of Kurds, some brandishing hammers and clubs, broke into the consulate compound, scaled grilles over ground-floor windows, entered the building and took a woman hostage. The woman was released after German authorities negotiated with the protesters.

"They tried to take a weapon from one of our security men. That was when firing broke out and the first casualties occurred," Mr Netanyahu added. "We are sorry when lives are lost, but we are committed



Abdullah Ocalan handcuffed and guarded by a member of the Turkish Special Forces on a flight from Kenya to Turkey

to protecting Israeli citizens wherever they may be and Israeli facilities anywhere in the world."

Mr Netanyahu disclosed that a team of Israelis had been sent to Germany to help the police investigation. "I think it is too early to reach final conclusions," he said. "But one has to understand we are talking about a violent break-in to an Israeli mission, with all the consequences." He pledged that security at all Israeli missions abroad would be tightened further, but gave no details.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the decision to close diplomatic missions in Europe

and send staff home would be reviewed on a day-to-day basis. Even before the attempt to storm the Berlin consulate, Israeli missions across the world had been placed on red alert in case of attempted Kurdish retaliation for the alleged Mossad link.

In Bonn, the German government spokesman Uwe Karsten Heye appealed for calm: "Whatever the background to this bloodshed we call on all those involved to do everything possible to help restore order."

About 50 Kurdish protesters stormed and occupied the offices of Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party in Frank-

furt and took one hostage, believed to be an SDP member.

Police said the Kurds ransacked offices on the third floor of the building. Negotiations between police and PKK sympathisers were under way in an attempt to free the hostage, a police spokesman said.

The wave of Kurdish violence that began on Tuesday amounted to a setback for the governing coalition of the SPD-led Government. Last year Bonn declined to seek Mr Ocalan's extradition from Italy to stand trial in Germany on the grounds that such a move would constitute a threat to national security.

The German security service

had given repeated warnings about the threat posed by the presence of an estimated 50,000 supporters of the banned PKK in Germany, the largest single group of militant Kurdish activists in Europe.

Manfred Kanther, Germany's former Conservative Interior Minister, yesterday accused the Schröder Government of cowardice. "We would have extradited Mr Ocalan. The German Government should act decisively against the violent supporters of the PKK. They should stop simply doing nothing under the pretext of being understanding," he said.

How terrorist was trapped by the Turks

By MICHAEL EVANS, PHILIP PANGALOS AND ANDREW FINKEL

THE covert operation that led to the seizure in Nairobi of Turkey's most wanted man, the PKK terrorist chief Abdullah Ocalan, involved a complex network of secret alliances.

Despite strong denials from the United States and Israel, it appears that Ankara was able to call on the services of the American and Israeli intelligence services to keep track of Mr Ocalan's movements across Europe and to provide positive proof that he was in hiding inside a Greek diplomatic compound in Nairobi, following his arrival in Kenya on a private jet.

Although the full story behind the plot to kidnap Mr Ocalan was being deliberately "muddied" yesterday by all those involved, the result was an unquestionable success for the small team of Turkish special forces who kidnapped the PKK leader from under the noses of the Kenyan authorities and Greek diplomats.

The team of about six Turkish "commandos", their faces hidden behind black balaclavas, intercepted a convoy of cars, one of which was bearing Mr Ocalan, on the way from the Greek Embassy in Nairobi — although some reports said that it was from the personal residence of George Costoulas, the Greek Ambassador — to the airport.

The detailed planning for the kidnap must have begun shortly after Mr Ocalan arrived in Nairobi from Milan at 11.33am on February 2, after refuelling in Greece. There were four other PKK represent-

atives with him. There were no immigration formalities. Mr Ocalan swept through diplomatic channels, presumably with the help of officials from the Greek Embassy. One report said he was met by the Greek Ambassador.

In case of any trouble at the airport, Mr Ocalan had a forged Cypriot diplomatic passport in the name of Lazarus Mavros, a well known journalist and outspoken supporter of the Kurdish cause.

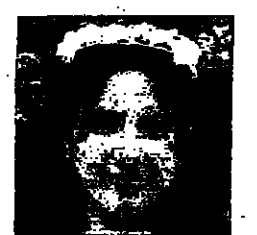
Although the Kenyan authorities appeared to be in ignorance of Mr Ocalan's arrival in their country, his presence in Kenya was no secret to the US, nor to Israel. Mr Ocalan had a habit of using his mobile phone and his conversations would have been intercepted by American electronic eavesdropping satellites. Both the US and Israel had good reasons to help Ankara in its pursuit of the terrorist chief.

Washington was grateful to Turkey for publicly confirming its long-standing support for the military case at Incirlik to be used by the US Air Force for flights over northern Iraq, from P-51 threatening noises sent by Saddam Hussein, and Israel has developed close military ties with Turkey because both countries share a common concern over Syria.

Ordered to the arrival of Mr Ocalan in Nairobi and the protection provided him by the Greek Ambassador, the Turkish intelligence service, MIT, launched the secret operation to kidnap the Kurdish leader.

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The girl who likes Tellytubbies... and terrorists



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Two-year ban likely on GM crop planting

By JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Government was last night moving towards a two-year ban on the commercial planting of genetically modified crops.

After a week of fierce public and political pressure, senior government sources admitted that it was increasingly unlikely that ministers would feel ready to go ahead before 2001.

Informed sources in the Environment Department and Agriculture Ministry admitted for the first time that this year's trials could be insufficient for ministers to grant approval for commercial planting. If so, it was disclosed, they will be repeated in the spring and autumn of next year. If the trials then prove satisfactory, planting will be allowed to begin the following year.

A two-year moratorium would take the Government much closer to the position of English Nature, the countryside advisory body that wants a three-year moratorium.

Some Labour backbenchers have joined opposition parties in pressing for at least a three-year delay.

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, and Jeff Rooker, the Food Minister, are understood to be strongly in agreement on the cautious line that is surfacing within the

Government. "There are only two small scale farm trials this year. That may not be enough to get the evidence we need," one Environment Department source said. "It may be difficult to draw any firm conclusion on one year's data."

He stressed that Mr Meacher had already told the House of Lords select committee on GM crops last November that he had an agreement with the industry that there would be "at least" one year of trials.

An Agriculture Ministry source said that Mr Rooker was now prepared to follow Mr Meacher's lead. "We wouldn't clear anything unless we are satisfied it is safe. The date of commercial planting will be determined by public safety and science and it would be difficult to set a timetable."

Waiters' dilemma, page 10
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Keegan takes over — but not for long

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN KEEGAN, the former European Footballer of the Year, was yesterday named as the new England team manager, but only for the next four international matches.

In a bizarre development in the saga to find a replacement for Glenn Hoddle, Keegan has told the Football Association that he does not wish to be considered for the job on a permanent basis after this summer. However, the governing body is so desperate to find a temporary coach that it was forced to accept Keegan's demands.

Instead of leading England towards the 2000 European championship, Keegan, regarded by many in the game as a messiah, will return to his full-time job as chief operating officer of second-division Fulham. He will work for them over the next five months when not on England duty.

David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive, said the search had already begun for a full-time England coach to

take over from Keegan in the summer.

Keegan, who won 63 caps for England and transformed the fortunes of Newcastle United as manager in the 1990s before resigning two years ago, will have his first game in charge when England play a qualifier against Poland at Wembley on March 27.

England in limbo, Page 52



Keegan: football's messiah

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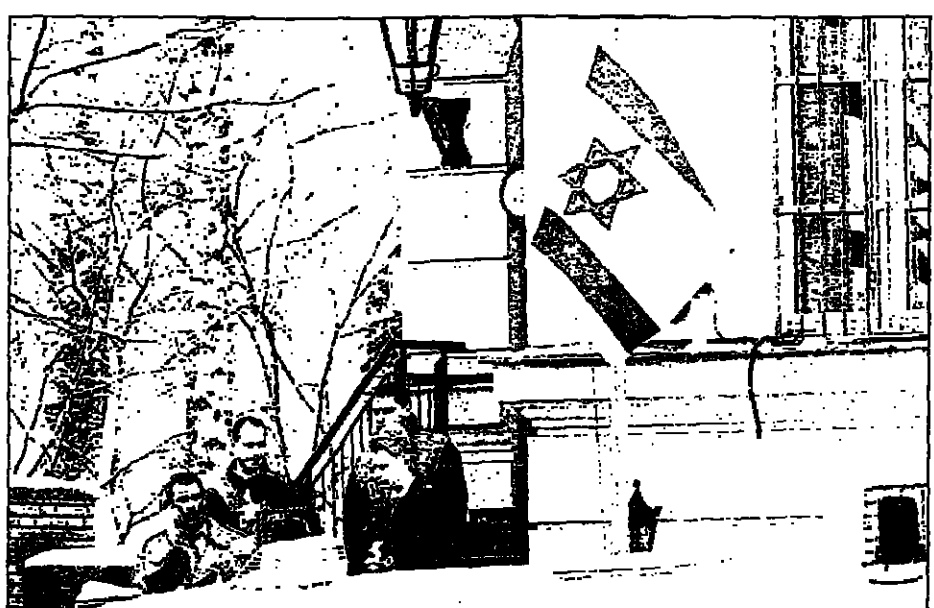
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KURDISH BACKLASH: REBELS ATTACKED



Police secure the entrance of the Israeli consulate in Berlin after yesterday's shooting

Ankara force storms into northern Iraq

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND ANDREW FINKEL

Since the 1991 Gulf War, "It will be just words, Saddam's powerless to do anything," one Arab envoy said.

As Kurdish demonstrators throughout Europe protest against Greece's apparent betrayal of Mr Ocalan, Turks themselves feel that they have died and gone to heaven. Not only is their Public Enemy No 1 behind bars, but Public Enemy No 2, Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek Foreign Minister, is taking the rap.

Ankara has long accused Greece, and Mr Pangalos in particular, of trying to weaken Turkey by supporting the PKK. That Mr Ocalan was caught enjoying the hospitality of the Greek Ambassador to Kenya is the hard evidence Turkey sought. Yet even more comforting is the suggestion that Greece may have colluded with Turkey in selling out the Kurdish cause.

Indeed, part of the anger displayed by anti-Turkish Kurds on the streets of European capitals in recent days stems from a realisation of how little international support they really enjoy. In the end, it was European eagerness neither to offend Turkey nor to become involved in its messy Kurdish dispute that forced Mr Ocalan onto the run.

Yesterday Turkey tried to drive home its advantage with the release of a video-recording of Mr Ocalan flying home and appearing to be asking for mercy and offering information. That performance is bound further to divide the loyalties of his estimated 10,000 armed supporters now divided into small operational units inside Turkey and into larger camps inside Baghdad-controlled Iraq. Mr Ocalan's own brother, Osman, who, according to Turkish reports, has gone to Iran, is believed to be one of the contenders for the vacant crown. Mr Ocalan himself is reported to support an other faction led by the commander, Cemil Bayik.

As to its incursion into northern Iraq, Ankara bristles at Western criticism, arguing that its Kurdish rebels have exploited a safe haven for Iraqi Kurds created by the United States and Britain. A six-week Turkish offensive in 1995, involving 35,000 troops, provoked criticism from the European Union and eventually from Washington after reports of civilian casualties. It also caused major disruption for Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

That offensive, which was followed by a smaller one two months later, weakened the PKK in northern Iraq, but failed in its declared aim of crushing the rebels once and for all. Now Turkey may feel its goal is more achievable.



An injured Kurd is carried from the Israeli consulate by firefighters yesterday

West blamed for broken pledges of past

The Kurds rue lost chance of a homeland, writes Michael Binyon

Numbering about 20 million people, the Kurds claim that they are the largest ethnic group in the world without a national state of their own. And although their anger is directed largely at Turkey and Iraq, where the majority live, they also blame the Western powers for undermining their fledgling independence at the end of the First World War.

Their grievances stem from the failure of the Western powers to ratify the promise in the Treaty of Sevres in 1920 to give the Kurds autonomy. For this they largely blame the US. President Wilson stipulated that the Kurds should have an "absolute unimolested opportunity of autonomous development".

The treaty was drawn up when the victorious allies were still contemplating the further dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, and at a time when there was general revulsion at the recent massacres of Armenians. It was never ratified by the Turkish parliament.

Three years later, however, the Treaty of Lausanne, which ended the war between the Turks and Greeks, ignored any mention of the Kurds. The US was not in the League of Nations, and Wilson's promises were forgotten. No separate homeland was ever established, and the Kurds were incorporated into the Turkish Republic.

By then, the political circumstances were very different. Mustafa Kemal - Ataturk - had seized control of Turkey and led the demoralised army to victory. The country had begun its reorientation to Europe and there was a recognition that the dismemberment of Anatolia would lead to a dangerous power vacuum.

Ataturk allowed no separate identity for the many ethnic groups in Turkey; all were to be citizens of the republic. The Kurds were called simply "Mountain

Turkey argues that its Kurdish rebels have exploited a safe haven created for Iraqi Kurds

Baghdad, which this week threatened to strike at an airbase in southern Turkey used by American and British warplanes, was certain to condemn the incursion in an area it has had little control over

Greeks angered by 'betrayal' of folk hero

Athens: Pressure mounted yesterday on Theodoros Pangalos, the Greek Foreign Minister, to resign as politicians of the right and left accused him of virtually betraying Abdullah Ocalan into the hands of the Greeks' traditional foe, the Turks.

Egged on by a media eager to assign blame for what is reported as a Greek diplomatic defeat, eight deputies of the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasef) called on Mr Pangalos to step down.

One of the eight, Stelios Papatheodis, accused the Government of being "stupid and dishonest". Yannis Haralambopoulos, a former Foreign Minister, said he believed Greece would eventually "pay a high price for this mishandling".

Criticism from the right was equally intense. Yannis Varvitsiotis, the deputy leader of the conservatives New Democracy Party, called Mr Pangalos's handling of the affair "childish and unacceptable".

The crisis has almost certainly dealt a serious blow to the already waning popularity of Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister. In a statement issued from a sickbed, Mr Simitis defended his Foreign Minister's handling of the affair.

But most Greeks, who have been weaned on anti-Turkish ideology from infancy, were unwilling to listen. Many view Mr Ocalan as a romantic, Che Guevara-type folk hero.

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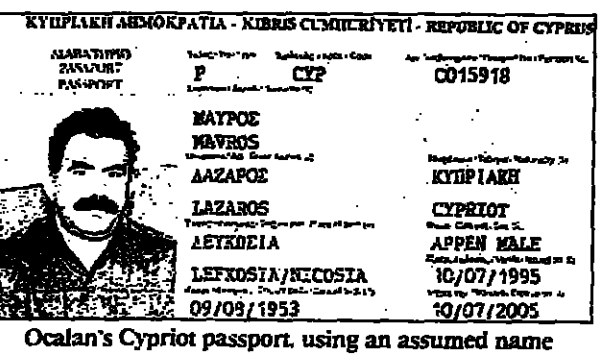
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Ocalan's Cypriot passport, using an assumed name

Private jet used to capture Ocalan

Continued from page 1

A team of six Turkish special forces personnel, including a pilot and a doctor, embarked on a private Falcon 900 executive jet belonging to Cavit Caglar, a prominent Turkish businessman and a former minister. He was apparently unaware of the reason for the Government's request to hire his plane.

According to one report, the special forces team arrived at Kampala in Uganda on Saturday and awaited orders to fly on to Nairobi.

While Mr Ocalan was under the protection of the Greeks, attempts were made to find him a country in Africa prepared to offer political asylum. Mr Ocalan also used his mobile phone to speak to Kenyan officials and his lawyers, unwittingly helping to pinpoint his precise location in Nairobi. "Ocalan did not take the necessary security measures," a Greek Government spokesman said.

With the knowledge that they would have the advantage of surprise in seizing Mr Ocalan on Kenyan soil, the Turkish special forces, which have a reputation for efficiency, had every reason to hope that the kidnap could be completed without bloodshed, provided Mr Ocalan could be persuaded to leave the protection of the Greeks voluntarily.

His decision to leave for the airport in the company of Kenyan security personnel and Greek officials at about 6pm on Monday evening has given rise to accusations of complicity, either by the Kenyans or the Greeks.

Whatever the truth it seems that Mr Ocalan believed he was about to fly to The Netherlands and must have felt confident during the eight-mile car journey to the airport that he was in safe hands.

However, the Turkish special forces team was waiting for the convoy to arrive at their vantage point along the route and intercepted his car as it swung round a bend. In an operation lasting only a few minutes, Mr Ocalan was handcuffed and driven at speed to the waiting jet that took off for Turkey at about 7.30pm.

Turkish television yesterday broadcast video footage of a bound Mr Ocalan being taken back to Turkey in a private jet. In the tape Mr Ocalan says: "If the truth be told I love Turkey and the Turkish nation."

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KURDISH BACKLASH: SCHOOLGIRL'S AGONY



Nejla Kanteper — who is in hospital recovering from burns — dressed for a wedding outside her London home, where she immersed herself in Kurdish politics, decorating her bedroom with photographs of Kurdish activists

Terrorists and Teletubbies

Nejla Kanteper, the 14-year-old schoolgirl who is critically ill after setting fire to herself during a Kurdish protest in London on Tuesday, is freely acknowledged by fellow pupils and former teachers to be a ringleader among Kurdish pupils at White Hart Lane secondary school.

Raised on a steady diet of Kurdish separatist literature and satellite television beamed into the living room of her three-storey council house in Wood Green, north London, her bedroom is adorned with Teletubbies and photographs of Kurdish activists.

Although in her GCSE year and surrounded by the usual temptations that Western society offers young teenagers, she has no time for clubs or discos. Even her best friends, invariably Kurds, confirm that there is no boyfriend and the only party in her life is the PKK.

Nejla, who was born in Cyprus, arrived in Britain in 1993. Katriye Kanteper, her mother, speaks no English but, like her partner, Suleyman Coskun, is invariably courteous, barely holding back her tears as she offers tea, coffee and cigarettes.

Their living-room is dominated by gill-framed pictures of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader, and Mr Coskun's 11 children by two wives. In the background a stream of relatives monitors constant broadcasts of folk music and world-wide protests on Med Tv, the Kurdish satellite channel.

Speaking through Nejla's half-brother, Engin, 14, her father said he was shocked but not surprised to learn what his daughter had done. He himself took part in a seven-day hunger strike at the local Kurdish Workers' Association community centre in November last year.

"It is very shocking. No father wants his daughter to burn herself, but every time she watched television seeing the Turks killing little children she got very angry," he said. "She decided what to do. No one forced her."

He told how he visited her in hospital, where she is recovering from burns to her back, right arm, chin and neck.

"I asked her if she was all right. She was not crying. She said she did this for her father, her family and all the Kurdish people," he said.

"Nejla used to read newspapers and books from the age of eight. She used to watch the Kurdish people burning themselves on television... and she cried, but she never said she would do something like this."

Asked why Kurdish protesters choose this form of protest, he shrugs and says: "The Americans and English are strong but they do not help us. No one does. Kurds cannot do anything on their own, so that is why they burn themselves, because they feel they cannot do anything else."

Stephen Farrell finds conflicting images of playtime and propaganda in the life of Nejla Kanteper, the London schoolgirl whose self-immolation propelled her to the forefront of the Kurdish movement in Britain

Mr Coskun was born into a farming family in Mus, eastern Turkey, in 1953, and left for Cyprus in 1976 after, he claims, suffering beatings and oppression under the Turkish forces.

His first wife remained in Cyprus with four children while his second partner, Mrs Kanteper, flew to Britain with eight-year-old Nejla on January 23, 1993.

Mr Coskun followed his family to Britain 21 days later,

claiming asylum and citing his partner and children as dependants. When this was refused, Mrs Kanteper lodged an asylum claim in turn, citing him as a dependant.

Then people now live in the house, including seven children, all carrying papers granting temporary admission until August 3, when they must report to Heathrow to learn if they have been granted leave

to enter Britain permanently. They stayed with a relative for a month and were then granted council housing, moving to their current home four years ago.

Mr Coskun does not work, indeed he is banned from doing so under the terms of the family's asylum claim, but confirms that although he does not receive benefit the rest of his family do, and that their £70 a week rent is paid by Haringey Council.

"I go to the meetings and I support Ocalan. The Turks have burnt villages and killed 30,000 people. They kill their own children and blame the Kurds," he said.

He does not know what subjects Nejla studies at school, saying she was more interested in singing and working at community centres.

Nejla's tiny bedroom, which she shares with her 12-year-old sister, Gulsen, contains a strange mixture of the childish

and the propagandist. Beside photographs of Agiti, a Kurdish guerrilla and martyr holding a gun, are baskets of one-eyed teddy bears, Teletubbies and rabbits.

On the wall facing the two bunk beds are the red, yellow and green colours of her Kurdish homeland above single red roses laid beneath photographs of other Kurdish heroes.

Christina Daubney, her head teacher, confirmed yesterday that Nejla, although a "lively popular girl" was concerned about Kurdish issues at the school.

"I am aware that she feels deeply about matters which concern her, her friends and

her family, but I am shocked that she should injure herself," Ms Daubney said.

One close schoolfriend said that Nejla was "not much into school", only hung around fellow Kurds and was intolerant of those less dedicated to the cause than her, bragging to friends that her sister had gone to Germany to train to fight the Turks, a claim dismissed by her family as school-girl bravado.

"I knew that she would go to the protest, she always goes to this kind of stuff, but I never knew she would do something like this," the schoolfriend said.

"She's really into the PKK, she has been brought up like that since she was five. She wanted to go and fight but I said 'No, if you go you will end up dead'."

Ethnic TV station falls foul of the regulator

BY CHRISTINE MIDDAP

THE thousands of Kurds staging protests across Europe are likely to have first heard the news of their leader's arrest on a little-known Kurdish-language television station based in London.

Med Tv is a cultural lifeline for Kurds, their only opportunity to hear their language broadcast, their songs performed and their political views aired. The satellite broadcaster is valued for its news and current affairs which are always presented from a "Kurdish viewpoint".

It claims to have broken the news of the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK (Kurdish Workers' Party) leader, at 1am on Tuesday. Since then, it has expanded its usual 18-hour broadcast to 24 hours, with regular news updates. But any suggestion that it may have incited or organised Kurdish protests in the wake of the arrest are denied by Hikmet Tabak, the Med Tv founder and managing director.

"We received a call that Kenya police with Greek co-operation had arrested Abdullah Ocalan... that is the news we gave."

"We give news the Kurdish



Suleyman Coskun, father of Nejla Kanteper, who set fire to herself, seen at the family home in North London

people need about themselves; we try to feed them as much information as we can. We are not a political party and we do not give instructions," Mr Tabak said.

"The PKK does not need Med Tv. Let's not underestimate them; they have a huge influence on the people."

Med Tv is also very influen-

tial. Enter a Kurdish home or café almost anywhere in Britain, continental Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and the former Soviet Union and the television set will more than likely be tuned to Med Tv.

Based in London with production studios in Brussels, Med Tv is the only Kurdish-

language satellite television station in the world. It airs a mix of cultural, educational, entertainment and religious programmes and news and current affairs output.

Although some complain to the Independent Television Commission (ITC) about Med Tv's very existence, it has been the station's news

and current affairs coverage that has invited the watchdog's wrath. In January last year it was fined £90,000 by the ITC for three breaches of impartiality requirements in its news and current affairs.

Ten months later the broadcaster was warned formally by the ITC that it would lose its licence if it did not im-

prove the balance of its political coverage.

In 1996, its headquarters in Regent Street, London, and its Brussels office were raided by Scotland Yard and Belgian and German police who suspected a money-laundering operation. It is understood that no convictions resulted from the raids.

Now the broadcaster is on six months' notice from the ITC. Its news services are monitored and it has to provide a log of guests on its current affairs programmes. The ITC said that no complaints had been received about the station's coverage of Mr Ocalan's arrest at this stage.

Mr Tabak agreed that impartiality was a problem. "We broadcast from a Kurdish viewpoint; we don't have the intention to carry the Turkish viewpoint on our channel," he said. "It [impartiality] is so difficult for us and for the regulator. But we do our best to comply with the laws." Mr Tabak added.

Med Tv presents its news in four languages and three Kurdish dialects. The station can be accessed via Hotbird 4, transponder no 117, freq 10.853MHz, 13deg east, horizontal polarisation.

Others, including former teachers and education experts in the borough, said that the school was one of two in Haringey where Turks and Kurdish pupils formed the largest ethnic group.

This, they pointed out, made divisions and tensions inevitable, not just between Turks and Kurds but between the various Kurdish factions.

"The PKK is but one group, and there are many political agendas within the Kurdish community," one observer said.

"They have a strong sense of identity and a strong sense of community and mutual support. This spills over into school."

"Any issue involving one of the Kurdish children will immediately attract multitudes of the others, all claiming to be cousins, brothers or sisters. It does not make for an easy management of schools."

LINKS

<http://www.turkishforum.com/index.html> — Anti-PKK
<http://www.med-tv.be/med/> — Kurdish Satellite TV site
<http://www.anfa.gr> — Greek Foreign Ministry homepage
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KURDISH BACKLASH: LONDON PROTEST

Deaths sour mood at embassy siege

THE police superintendent had hardly finished speaking of his optimism for a quick resolution to the occupation of the Greek Embassy when news of Kurdish deaths in Berlin began filtering through. Protesters stopped dancing, their drum fell silent and the relaxed mood in West London evaporated.

The crowd, which had dwindled to fewer than 100 yesterday morning, grew to more than 500 by evening as extra demonstrators arrived by the coach-load from Kurdish communities of North London.

Once again, police began to talk of the need for patience. Crude tents, made from blue plastic sheets, were set up by demonstrators, in readiness for another cold night. From inside the embassy in Holland Park, where about 50 protesters are holding a Greek clerk hostage, came the announcement that a hunger strike was beginning.

The arrival of Suleyman Coskun, 45, the father of Nejlâ Kantepir, the schoolgirl who set fire to herself the previous day, gave extra impetus. He said he was proud of his daughter and supported the occupiers' right to continue their protest.

"I went to hospital and said

Young demonstrators say they are willing to burn in the cause of freedom, Adrian Lee reports

"Why have you done this? She said: 'Dad, we are burning every day. Burning yourself is our way of protesting because we have no power.'"

Her father said he had been due to visit his daughter in hospital again at 2pm but delayed so that he could support the demonstration outside the embassy. According to her family, she tried to exchange her watch for petrol from a garage before setting fire to herself.

Among those arriving yesterday afternoon was a group from the Halkevi Kurdish community centre in Stoke Newington, North London, where Ms Kantepir sings in a folk band. Her protest won admiration from groups of teenage girls who joined the demonstration, often leading the chanting.

Devrin Incedal, 19, said: "I am prepared to do the same. Why not?"

She spent all Tuesday night on the pavement outside the embassy. "It was cold but that does not matter to us. All that matters is our leader's safety."

She predicted that the occupation could still end in violence.

"If it needs to be done, they will burn themselves like Nejlâ. They have no fear about that — young or old, they will do it."

Another girl, aged 14, who refused to give her name, said her father and uncle were inside the embassy. Between chanting and flag-waving she said: "Nejlâ was very brave. She has guts. What she did was not extreme, she has shown that we are willing to die. I would do it myself for my people's future."

Extra police were brought in yesterday to prevent a repeat of Tuesday's skirmishes which culminated in a main road being closed. A dozen police vans and two rows of barriers blocked the demonstrators' route to the embassy, which is surrounded by armed officers.

At 6.45pm last night police officers leapt over barriers when a man appeared to attempt to set light to himself. The demonstrator was pushed

to the ground by fellow protesters and then pulled out by officers. An ambulance was called but the man did not appear to be injured.

The strengthening of the crowd's resolve was fuelled by false rumours that 14 had died in Berlin. Earlier, community leaders had said that they believed the occupation could have been over by yesterday and that only wrangling over the terms of their surrender was delaying its conclusion.

Babis Patsouris, a Greek Embassy clerk in his fifties who is being held by the demonstrators, was said by police to be in good spirits and in no danger.

In the early hours of yesterday Lord Rens, a Kurdish sympathiser, mediated between police and the occupiers, raising hopes of a resolution. Later Tony Benn, the Labour MP, arrived at the scene and dictated a letter to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Benn gave a warning that the demonstrations in London and elsewhere could end in bloodshed and urged the British Government to seek assurances from Turkey about the trial and treatment of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader whose arrest by Turkey triggered the protests.



Tony Benn, the Labour MP, lends his support to protesters outside the Greek Embassy in west London yesterday

Displaced Kurds dream of home

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A COMPLEX and uneasy relationship exists between the Turkish and Kurdish communities of North London, near the Kantepir home.

The most visible sign of their presence is the 150 shops and businesses lining Green Lane, the main road through Haringey where more than 12,000 Kurds are based, most seeking asylum.

Near a Bank of Cyprus branch are numerous restaurants, cafes and travel agents. Tucked in behind a railway line, in a narrow cul de sac, is the Kurdistan Workers' Association community centre, with the distinctive red, yellow and green Kurdish colours above the entrance.

Each day, scores of men sit reading Turkish-language newspapers such as *Özgür Politika*. Watching the ubiquitous satellite television channel in the corner opposite a bar selling only soft drinks, they sit beneath a giant mural of Abdullah Ocalan leading his people through pastoral meadows with the hills of their homeland in the background.

Diyari Kurdi, 37, an Iraqi-born Kurd and chairman of the Kurdistan Community Association, proudly tells of how the centre teaches 65 students, including Nejlâ's father, English and computing. But he accuses Turks of trying to burn down the centre last August.

"Every single Kurd I speak to says they appreciate what Nejlâ did, but many feel that if you want to die you should not die alone. I do not think that Kurdish people should carry out terrorist attacks, but I am appealing to the European governments to carry out urgent action or it will be too late. People cannot be controlled any more."

However, the author and broadcaster Sheri Laiser, believes talk of a Turkish/Kurdish division is too simplistic and says left-wing Turks supporting the democracy movement in their country form alliances with some Kurdish groups. It is the differences between right-wing Turks in nearby Newington Green and the Kurds that are the most dangerous, she claims.



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In debt to Ali, champion of Third World

By ROBIN YOUNG

IN HIS glory days Muhammad Ali, the much adored boxer, once known as Cassius Clay, regularly used his London visits to stock up on new tricks at a magicians' shop in Holborn.

The three-time heavyweight champion of the world, who was a practised prestidigitator outside the ring as well as in, has less interest in magic these days, but it has by no means deserted him.

Yesterday it helped him to transform Brixton bus queues into a chanting mob of fans. Ali, a silent, shuffling, shaking figure now that he is stricken with Parkinson's disease, is nonetheless the International Ambassador of the Jubilee 2000 movement, a campaign to persuade western governments to mark the millennium by cancelling the debts of impoverished Third World nations.

In that role he was given a hero's welcome in Brixton, where he spent 45 minutes in

the Lambeth Refugee Centre, local headquarters for the Jubilee 2000 campaign.

When Ali appeared on the centre steps he was greeted with ardent cheers and chants of "Ali, Ali, Ali". The jumper beneath his overcoat was as bright as the banners on the walls above him.

Scarcely able to walk, and with a fixed expression as if



Glory days: a young Muhammad Ali

every slow movement required intense concentration, he lifted his arm in a half-raised African salute. Those nearest him in the crowd went wild.

One woman, Juliet Blake, 35, from Lambeth, managed to squeeze under a policeman's arm to hug and kiss her idol, who looked at her with an expression of wonderment.

Hands trembling, he reached in his pocket and slowly drew forth a sheaf of printed leaflets publicising Islam. Carefully he placed them one by one into eagerly straining hands, before inching forward to be greeted and photographed again.

The 25 steps from the centre to his waiting car, an open-topped 1932 4.2 litre Bentley, took 25 minutes. One man waved a single placard. It said: "Ali - Still the Greatest."

When he reached the car and was helped in, the crowd struck up again the chant of "Ali, Ali, Ali". Once in the car



Shaking the hand that shook the world: a young girl meets Ali, in London to campaign on behalf of Jubilee 2000

he raised his face, the cheeks now swollen, soft and shiny, like well-pummelled boxing gloves, and the tiniest, gentlest, most tentative suggestion of a smile crossed his face.

He lifted one hand, his index finger shaking tremulously, and then collapsed into the back seat as if the victim of one of his own right-crosses.

Photographers surrounding the car squabbled for space

just as urgently as in the good old days.

The procession - police van, Bentley with Ali now standing again, his trembling finger waving gently to the crowd, six mounted police and a small host of jogging fans in pursuit - went off down the High Street, round St Matthew's church, past the waving bus queues and back. Alex Marshall, 50, from Brixton,

boasted delightedly: "I shook the hand that shook the world. I will remember this day for the rest of my life."

James Burke, 28, said: "He has to be just the greatest sports personality of all time. It is great to see him in Brixton and an honour to shake his hand." The Jubilee 2000 leaflets Ali handed out read: "More than 30 years ago, Muhammad Ali shook off the

chains of racism and slavery. Today he came to Brixton to help black people of the world shake off the chains of debt bondage. Africa spends twice as much on debt payments as health care. Debt bondage is the modern form of slavery." Africa, says the campaign, owes western countries £138 billion - £231 for every man, woman and child on the continent.

Reprieve likely for OUP poetry

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD University Press yesterday appeared to bow to the massive criticism of its decision to axe its entire modern poetry list.

The academic publishing-house said that "the Press and the English Faculty are looking for a new way by which contemporary poetry can continue to be published".

OUP had argued that it could not afford to continue publishing books that barely broke even and which did not fit in with its non-fiction lists. A spokeswoman would not agree that the company was backtracking but said the statement was open to interpretation.

Novelists and professors were among many who had expressed anger that poets such as Peter Porter and D.J. Enright had been dropped.

Jon Stallworthy, the Oxford professor of English literature and editor of the *Oxford Book of War Poetry*, accused the Press of "an act of vandalism".

Yesterday, he said: "The faculty would certainly welcome this development and would do everything it can to help the OUP make an even greater success of its poetry."

Student glued his friend's eye shut

By GILLIAN HARRIS, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A STUDENT who superglued a sleeping friend's eye shut at a party for a joke was fined £350 yesterday.

Dean Allan, 22, admitted the offence that left Grant McGregor, 18, temporarily blind in one eye but said that he could not remember the prank because he was drunk.

An optician had to rip Mr McGregor's eyelid from his cheek. Perth Sheriff Court was told. His mother, Joyce, said: "It was like the Phantom of the

Opera's mask. It was really fortuitous that there wasn't any damage to the eye."

Allan, a mechanical engineering student at Oxford College of Further Education, had been drinking to celebrate the end of his exams before her arrival at the party in Blairgowrie, Perthshire, last August.

"I was drunk. I regret it and I didn't mean him any harm," he said.

He was also ordered to pay £150 compensation.

Why you can't kill a roach

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE cockroach is nature's champion acrobat, able to twist and turn up to 25 times a second, scientists have found. This remarkable agility and speed helps to explain why it is so difficult to kill.

"If the cockroach were not such a bad house guest, it would no doubt receive the admiration it richly deserves," Dr Jeff Camhi, of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said.

Using a high-speed camera, Mr Camhi and his team filmed the creatures, running at speeds of up to three feet a second, in a circular enclosure

divided by a wall. They kept a fixed distance from the wall, apparently by running the tip of their long antennae along it, according to a report in *New Scientist*.

The team found that the roaches kept the same distance from a wall that zig-zagged repeatedly, making them turn up to 25 times a second.

"We know of no other animal capable of such a high frequency of body-turning," Dr Camhi said. Cockroaches are nocturnal, so it is unlikely they were using their eyes. To prove it Dr Camhi blindfold-

ed them with blobs of wax. It made no difference.

Immobilising the base of their antennae with glue also had no effect but removing the tips of the antennae caused them to bump into the wall. The conclusion is that the roaches navigate by turning the tip of their antennae along the wall and sensing the changing bend in the antennae tips.

The lightning reactions of the cockroach, which makes them so hard to kill, suggests that they must have highly efficient nervous systems.

Cheese: spread the word

By ELIZABETH JUDGE

GENERAL de Gaulle once complained of the difficulties of governing a country so diverse that it produced 246 different cheeses. Yesterday the scale of the task awaiting Tony Blair was made clear when more than 400 British cheeses were given pride of place.

Lord Donoughue, Minister for Farming and the Food Industry, unveiled a poster, the first in a series of initiatives designed to sell the nation's 400, often maligned, cheeses abroad. Those on the poster range from the little known Cornish Yarg and Ticklemore

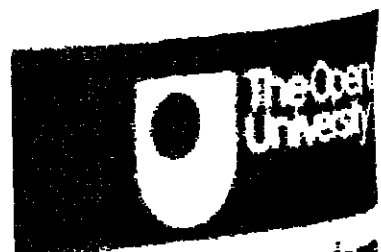
cheeses to the more traditional Blue Stilton and mild traditional Cheddar. Three types of Gloucester are featured, including the laboriously named Double Gloucester with Full Fat Soft Cheese and Onions, Gordon Summerfield, President of the Dairy Industry Federation, said: "One of the objectives of the poster is to ensure that retailers and consumers abroad fully appreciate the sheer diversity and quality of UK cheese."

The poster is being printed in French, Italian, German and Spanish and will be dis-

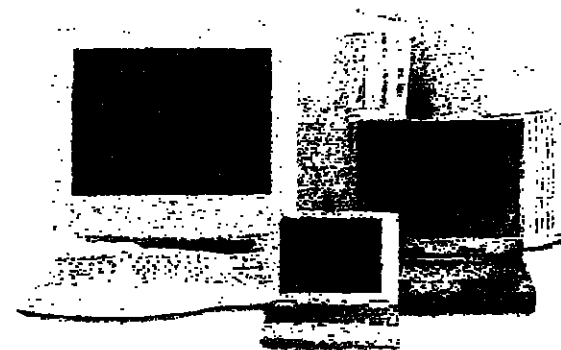
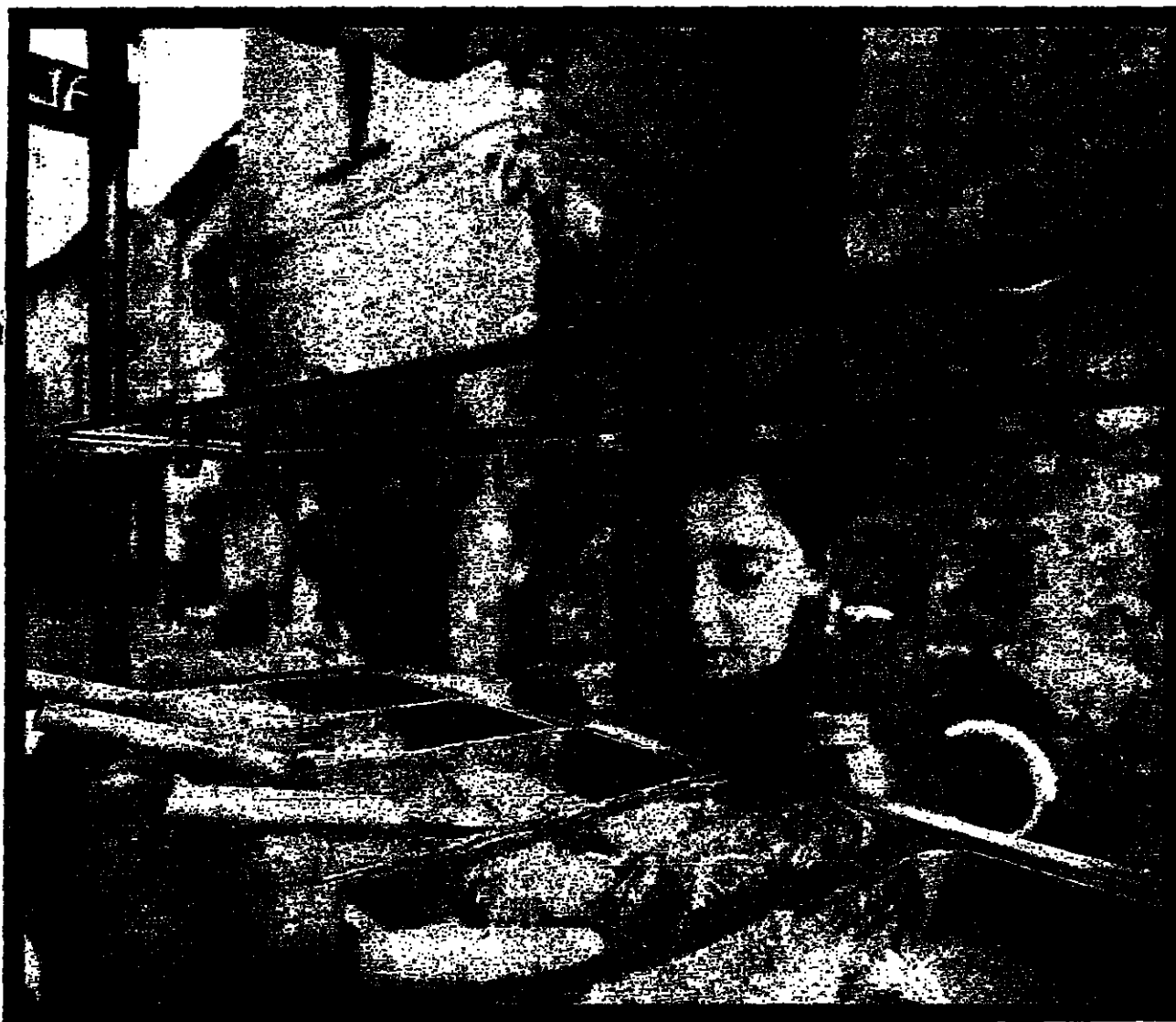
tributed to cheese manufacturers and exporters as well as trade attaches in British embassies abroad.

Lord Donoughue has been promoting British cheese for the past two years in a series of seminars. He said: "The British cheese seminar last year was the first step in identifying a way forward in a more successful marketing of British cheese. Our cheese exports are showing an upwards trend and I have every confidence that this is going to continue."

Leading article, page 23



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With 3.3 million existing in families with less than half the average national income, children are now the largest group caught in the poverty trap.

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And with your help, we can do something to redress the balance between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'.

When the disadvantaged become the disappeared

Every year thousands of children fall through the net.

In the local areas, where these children are concentrated, more than 25% of them will begin life as underweight babies, they have a 30% higher mortality rate and they are twice as likely to die in childhood accidents.

These same children are disadvantaged in education. They can become disruptive in class. Unable to cope, schools exclude them in their thousands - 150,000 exclusions in a single year. The majority are children from poorer homes.

Without a decent start in life, many young people never catch up.

Truancy in these deprived districts is currently running at four times the national average.

While one in four pupils at secondary schools near rundown housing estates, leave at sixteen without a single GCSE, five times the national average.

The vast majority of underage pregnancies can be traced back to the same areas.

4,700 girls of school age fell pregnant in 1998 - more than any other country in Europe.

Uneducated, unhappy young people will buck the system when they feel abandoned by it.

Many turn to crime. And pay the price.

Britain locked up 11,000 teenagers in 1998. That's a 40% increase in just five years - a depressing European record.

A staggering 43,000 children run away each year.

Life on the streets can be desperate and dangerous, with the real risk of being caught up with drugs and prostitution, simply to survive.



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The Children's Society is their advocate, advisor, friend.

"When Mum left we stayed with Dad. He couldn't get work so they took our home. Social Services put us in one of them bed and breakfast places. Dad and my brother were upstairs, I was on another floor. It was horrible. The guy in the next room started touching me. One night he tried to rape me. They were going to put me and my brother in care. It was the people at The Children's Society that stopped it. They talked to me lots about what happened. And they helped us get a flat. Life savers, that's what Dad calls them."

Karen aged 14

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Coastguard closures 'put lives at risk'

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs urged ministers yesterday to halt the closure of several coastguard stations planned as part of an overhaul of the service.

The Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Select Committee said that lives could be put at risk by the move. The MPs argued that closing four of the current 21 coastguard stations would lead to a "catastrophic" loss of local knowledge, with a "very serious impact" on the performance of the service.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency believes that new digital communication technology will compensate for the closures, which are designed to create greater effectiveness and efficiency.

Under existing plans, the coastguard rescue co-ordination centres at Oban, Argyllshire, and Pembrokeshire will be closed by the end of 2000, those in the Tyne-Tees area and Liverpool by the end of 2001 and the stations at Portland, Dorset, and the Solent will be relocated and merged by the end of 2003.

The report said: "We are concerned that the closure programme, by requiring watch officers to cover more lengthy stretches of coastline, threatens to dilute local knowledge to such an extent that its value will be reduced, with a potentially very serious impact on the performance of the coastguard service." The MPs said that the closure programme would save only £500,000, stopping the changes would be "inexpensive".

They concluded: "Therefore we recommend that all 21 maritime rescue co-ordination centres and sub-centres be retained and that new communications technology is installed in all of them. We are extremely worried about the closure programme, with its attendant risks that watch officers in the stations that remain might be overloaded with work, particularly in the event of a major incident, that threatened stations might be blighted, and about the effect of the programme on staff."

The MPs criticised the Maritime and Coastguard Agency for not consulting more widely about the changes. They also demanded that the newly formed body should be separated back into the Coastguard Agency and Marine Safety Agency.

The report showed that coastguards were involved in 5,563 incidents in 1997; that had more than doubled to 11,667 incidents in 1997.

Ray Michie, Liberal Democrat MP for Argyll and Bute, said: "Surely even this Government is not so arrogant that it can ignore a committee dominated by its own backbenchers. The cost-driven decision to close these stations threatens not only quality jobs but marine safety." Jim Wallace, Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland, said: "I shall be calling on John Prescott to admit with grace that the Government got it wrong."



Coastguards responded to 11,667 incidents in 1997

Army 'must keep true to its aim'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN must retain a first-class combat capability if its forces are to play an increasing role in operations in the 21st century, General Sir Roger Wheeler said yesterday.

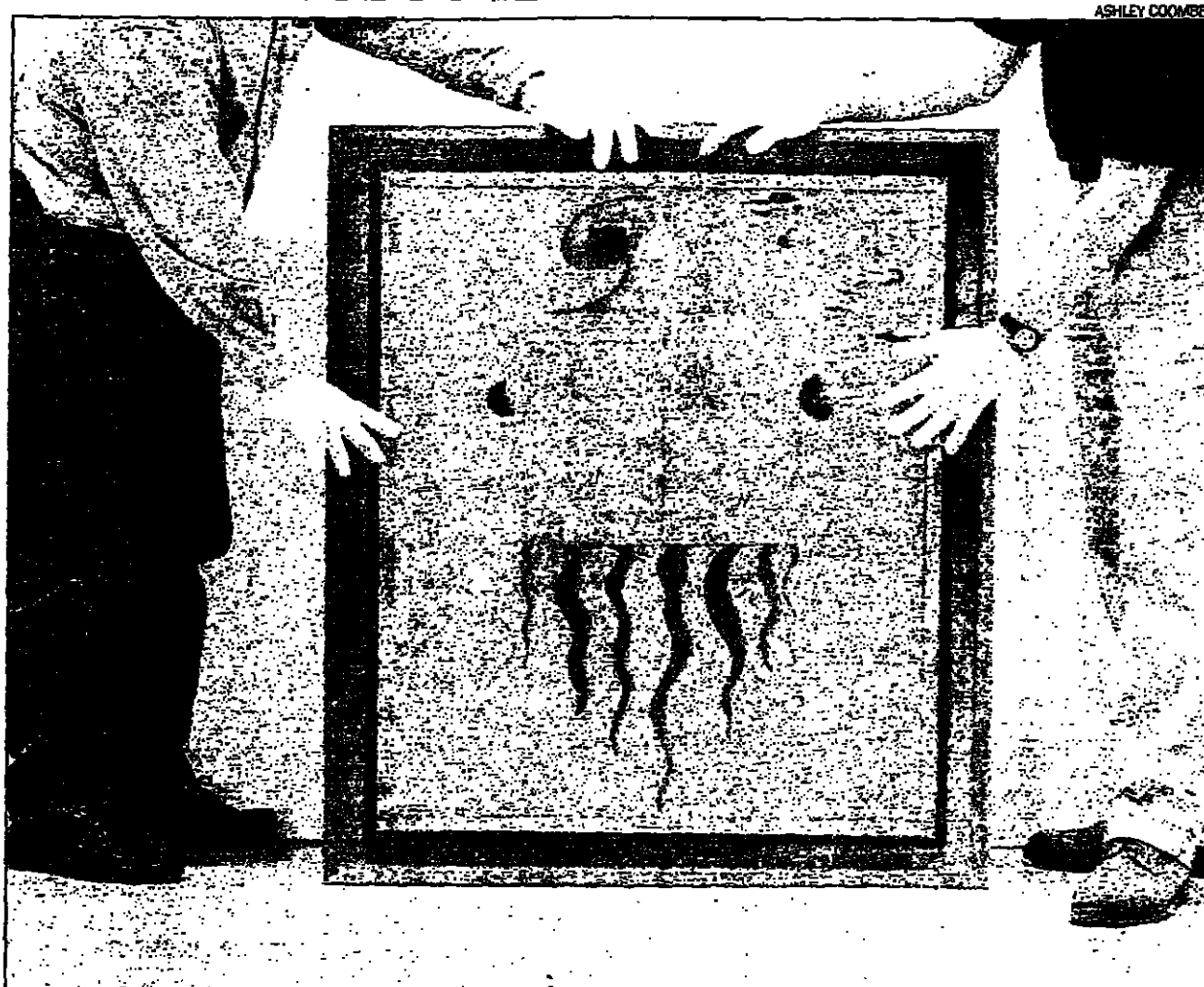
The warning from Sir Roger, Chief of the General Staff, came as the Army prepares 8,000 troops for a possible peace mission in Kosovo, while maintaining 5,000 in Bosnia-Herzegovina and 15,000 in Northern Ireland. Under the strategic defence review the Army succeeded in making its case for a service based on two deployable divisions, capable of taking on two operations simultaneously.

Yesterday, at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies in London, Sir

Roger said that young people joining the Army had to accept it was an organisation "geared to war fighting". His overriding aim was to maintain that capability. "We must not lose sight of this imperative — there are no prizes for second place in battle."

In the next century the Army must be ready at short notice to undertake any tasks required of it, from civil aid to combat. He indicated that there was a long way to go before the British force in Bosnia, now in its seventh year, could be recalled. Britain's status meant that it would always be asked to contribute troops for peace missions.

Leading article, page 23



Joan Miró's *Head of a Catalan Peasant* at the Edinburgh gallery yesterday, where it will stay until spring 2000

Galleries agree to time-share a classic

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO leading art galleries have pooled resources to acquire a Surrealist masterpiece for £2.1 million. The Tate Gallery and Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art announced yesterday that they will share *Head of a Catalan Peasant* by Joan Miró.

It is the first joint purchase by the two national collections of modern art. The National Galleries of Scotland and the V&A proved such an arrangement could work when they bought Canova's *Three Graces* for £7.6 million in 1994. The Miró will be in Edinburgh until spring 2000, then go to the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art on the South Bank. It has been sold by the estate of Sir Roland Penrose, a pioneer collector of Surrealist art who died in 1984.

Miró (1893-1983) painted the work in 1925, soon after the Surrealist movement was established. The Tate described it yesterday as "one of the most celebrated of all Surrealist paintings".

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Dr. Luigi Radice
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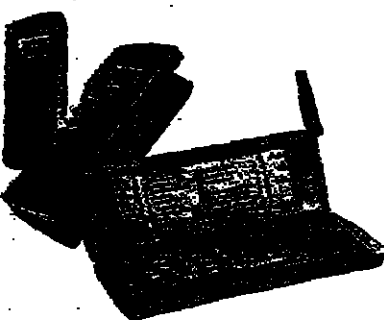
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This week in
The Saturday TimesBARBIE
AT 40Why mothers
loathe and little
girls love the
billion-selling
bimboThe Saturday Times
Only 60pExpert wants trade
in live body partsRussell Jenkins on the professor
who wants surgeons to take
organs without asking relatives

AN EXPERT on medical ethics suggested yesterday that people should be able to trade their body parts to cut down waiting lists of people needing life-saving transplants.

John Harris, an international authority on bio-ethics, said that a commercial market in live organs could be run ethically under strict conditions. A single purchaser, such as the NHS, could ensure there was no exploitation of poorer countries or illicit trade across continents and that the organs were distributed according to medical need.

Professor Harris, a former member of the British Medical Association's ethics committee, also suggests that bodies should become public property on death, allowing surgeons to harvest usable organs without going through the traumatic process of asking grieving relatives for consent.

Society has traditionally given too much weight to the rights of the dead and their relatives and too little to the needs of the desperately ill, says Professor Harris, 53, the Sir David Alliance Professor of Bioethics at Manchester University. Meanwhile many

die needlessly as waiting lists for transplant surgery grow inexorably in this country and around the world, and as health services struggle to keep up with medical advances and patients' expectations.

In the UK the latest statistics show there are 5,349 people waiting for organ donors, the vast majority — 4,584 — for kidneys. Last year the total was slightly lower at 5,175.

Professor Harris, based at the university's Institute for Medicine, Law and Bio-ethics, will tell an international conference on ethical issues involved in transplant surgery that some 1,000 will die while on the waiting list.

The keynote speaker at the conference in Manchester this weekend will suggest to transplant surgeons, lawyers, philosophers and religious leaders that it is time to adopt more radical solutions to the growing global crisis.

A limited, ethical market in live organs is feasible if it is set up within manageable geographical systems, such as the United Kingdom or the European Union, he believes.

A single purchaser, such as the NHS, appointed to buy the

Professor Harris wants
more radical solutions

organs and distribute them according to medical need would ensure that the rich could not go to Harley Street for kidneys taken from people on the backstreets of Bombay, he says.

The use of live donors is long established, said Professor Harris, who points out that many kidney transplants carried out in Norway involve organs donated by volunteers.

He said: "I suspect that the reality is we are not ready for this now. But the point of recommending it now is to encourage debate and to point out there are good ethical reasons for these schemes."

"I do not believe there are powerful ethical arguments against them. People should

ask themselves the question, 'Am I prepared to go on seeing people die, rather than rethink these issues?'"

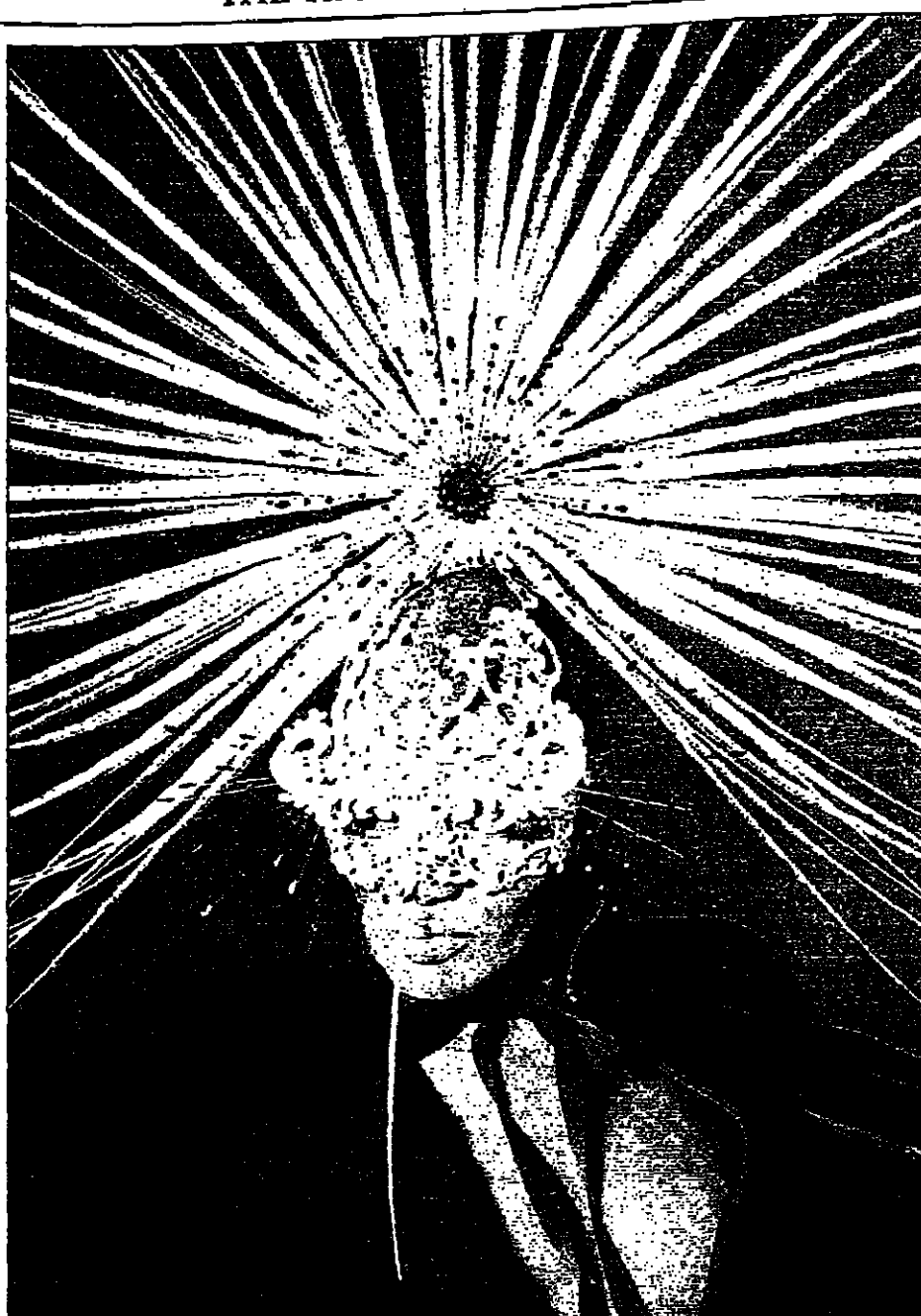
The BMA's ethics committee has discussed relaxing the rules governing organ removal. An expert study into all aspects of organ transplantation is to report to the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, later this year.

The Department of Health is launching an organ donor campaign next week aimed at the Asian community. But Professor Harris says that much work to date to counter the shortage of donors has been "pussyfooting" around the problem.

He suggests that corpses should become the property of the state so that they can be harvested automatically for organs. Surgeons would no longer have to disturb grieving relatives to ask permission to use recoverable organs.

The seizure of the bodies would have much the same legal weight as that given to post-mortem examinations.

Professor Harris said: "Post mortem examinations can be ordered in the public interest. If there is a public interest in finding out the cause of death, how much greater is the public interest in saving the life of a citizen at risk? Such a system could allow for those with religious or conscientious objections to opt out."



Grace Jones models a Philip Treacy fantail of silver peacock feathers in New York

Hat-tricks by
Treacy and the
grace of Jones

FROM LISA ARMSTRONG, FASHION EDITOR, IN NEW YORK

GRACE JONES is a pretty formidable sight at most moments, storming down a catwalk in six stilettos, a 2ft metal cone on her head.

She does, however, look good in a Philip Treacy hat, and therein lies a dilemma. For if Jones's chief claim to fame these days is her ability to carry off with panache an orange felt helmet with what looked like drunken tufts of coral whipping round her face, Treacy's is increasingly resting on shows that feature technically brilliant millinery with no real place to go other than a camp icon's closet.

The collection he showed on Tuesday night in New York's Public Library highlighted some extraordinary creations: a snakeskin sancer with a matching bustier dress, a purple ovoid that slotted over the face rather as a giant mollusc might in a drug-induced fantasy, an exquisite fantail of silver peacock feathers that sat on the head like a couture mohican, and those metallic discs that looked like weapons of mass destruction — and not simply on the credit card — were technically flaw-

less, breathtakingly so. But who would wear them?

If Philip Treacy represents one (minority) school of New York fashion week, Ralph Lauren emphatically weighs in for the other. "I wanted to address the way women are going to want to dress in the millennium," he said after the show. Cue acres of unlined, double-face cashmere felt, worked into luxurious working clothes — updated with hoods, funnel necks and an absence of buttons. Not so much Grace Jones as Princess Grace. What gave them catwalk punch were the colours: head-to-toe periwinkle, yellow, leaf green, crimson, lavender and pumpkin.

Judging by what the audience was decked out in this is resolutely not what millennial woman will be wearing. She will take it (all) in the monochrome versions that this canniest of designers also paraded. In his dreams, Lauren may wish his customers would go wild and wear something approximating to colour, but in the meantime he will keep on showing the black. Hey, this is New York.

Maritime Museum in
new wave of fashion

BY MARK HENDERSON

FROM bell bottoms to deck shoes, the influence of Britain's naval heritage on fashion is to be celebrated at the National Maritime Museum.

New work with a seafaring style by designers such as Vivienne Westwood will stand alongside the uniform that Nelson wore at the Battle of Trafalgar in the "Rank and Style" gallery, which opens on March 31 as part of the museum's £20 million lottery-funded redevelopment.

The gallery will also explore the development of protective clothing at sea. On show will be the outfit that helped to keep Tony Bullimore alive for four days in the hull of his capsized catamaran in the Southern Ocean. Displays will chart the history of nautical clothing and its sway over trends on dry land.

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Methodists praise God the Mother

THE Methodist Church became the first British church yesterday to publish an official prayer book with God addressed as a woman. The church, which has about a million regular worshippers, has included a thanksgiving in one of its new Communion services which begins: "God our Father and our Mother."

A new worship book to succeed the 1975 service book uses "inclusive" language wherever possible for God and for the congregation. There is frequent use of "she/he" and "sisters and brothers in Christ" when referring to the worshippers.

In response to the line: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God", the congregation says: "It is right to give our thanks and praise" instead of "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

The service does contain many references to God as father and Jesus Christ is kept exclusively male throughout. But various prayers emphasise the feminine side of God's nature, addressing the "God of tenderness and compassion" or "gentle God".

The Church of England,

Ruth Gledhill turns the pages of a service book that breaks new ground in British religion

which is revising its liturgy for the new millennium, has also opted for inclusive language where possible but has not yet gone so far as to describe God as "mother".

The Rev John Lampard, a member of the 15-strong Methodist liturgical committee, said: "God is neither male nor female. Way back in Christian tradition, God has been referred to as mother. There is a variety of images of God in the Bible as male and female. We wanted to reflect this."

The Rev Neil Dixon, secretary of the Methodist faith and order committee, said of the innovation: "For many people it will be quite difficult to take on board immediately." But there was a theological principle at

stake. "It is an article of religion that human beings are made in the image of God. Male and female he created them. Although God himself, God 'herself', is without gender, both the male and female must help us to understand God's nature."

The service book was unveiled at Wesley's Chapel in the City of London yesterday. The prayer of thanksgiving comes in one of nine new services of Holy Communion.

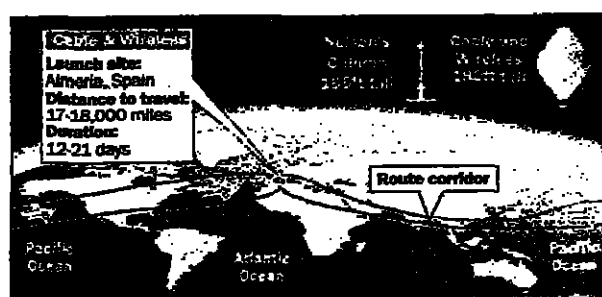
There are four alternative baptism services and a marriage service that allows for the bride to be "presented for marriage" by a friend or relative instead of "given away".

There are funeral services for the death of a child and for a stillborn child, a healing service, an Easter vigil, a service for the burial of ashes and an office of commendation for use on first hearing of a death.

Methodist liturgists have been developing the 600-page book since 1990. Although ministers are not bound to use it and can continue with the old version or use none at all, more than 160,000 copies have already been ordered from the Methodist Publishing House.



Two workmen pause to watch the Cable and Wireless balloon leave Spain yesterday



Plucky balloon bid has already run out of steam

By HELEN RUMBLOW

THE first all-British attempt to balloon around the world proved the mettle of its odd-couple pilots in a near-perfect launch in Spain yesterday.

Andy Elson, a West Country engineer, and Colin Prescott, an old-Etonian *Superman* stuntman, believe their balloon will be first around the world due to national qualities of perseverance, daring and, above all, understatement.

By 9am this morning the balloon is expected to be near the border of Algeria, flying at around 35mph and 24,000ft.

They have been forced to go "low and slow" in order to avoid China, which has refused access to all British-registered balloons after Richard Branson defied its airspace regulations in his balloon at Christmas.

The team estimate that the China ban has put an extra five days on the projected 15-day journey. Mr Elson, 45, hung off the

outside of the Cable and Wireless capsule as its 192ft-tall balloon lifted into the bright sunshine above a golf course in Almeria at 9.50am yesterday.

As he put satellite antennae in place, Mr Prescott, 48, from Stockbridge, Hampshire watched the hundreds of well-wishers below, including Mr Elson's 87-year-old mother Phyllis, and his wife, whom he called on a satellite phone.

"I was looking up at him in the sky when he called and said he was very pleased with the launch," said Susie Prescott.

The flight director, Ian Ashpole, said that the weather for the next five days looked favourable both for easy flying and for the pilots to sun themselves by sitting outside on their fuel canisters.

"It was a brilliant launch, all the modifications Andy has had to make worked perfectly," said Ian Ashpole, the flight director. The only faulty equipment at present was the kettle, he said.

Church seeks its members' advice

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishops of Canterbury and York are to set up "focus groups" to find out what members of the Church of England really want. The "rolling research programme" will consist of groups set up in 20 of the Church's 43 dioceses in England.

It was launched yesterday by the new Archbishops' Council, the 19-member body chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope.

The consultation exercise is the first important initiative of the council, a cabinet-style body nicknamed "Carey's Curia" which came into being on January 1 as part of a move to give the Church stronger leadership from the centre.

The research programme will be run along modern business management lines. It is being directed by Jayne Ozanne, a member of the Arch-

bishops' Council and a former BBC marketing manager.

The decision to set up the programme was made at this week's meeting of the council. The council was addressed by Professor John Adair, a national leadership adviser, who holds the world's first chair in leadership at Exeter University and who was the first lay person to preach at St Paul's Cathedral.

Ms Ozanne said: "We understand the need of getting to know, hear and listen to the needs, perceptions and desires of our parishioners. There is a lot of work that goes on at a parish level."

"It would be good to pull that together into a national picture of what goes on in England. Over the next two months we will be holding focus groups and listening to what the people in the parishes have to say to us about their perceptions of the Church."

Brookside tackles adult theme

By HANNAH BETTS

THE Channel 4 soap opera *Brookside* launches its latest sensational story-line today. This time it is not going to be incest, heroin addiction or paedophilia, but adult literacy.

Viewers will discover that popular mother of four Niamh Musgrove (played by Barbara Drennan) is secretly illiterate. The show will be followed by a trailer for "Brookside Basics", a nationwide scheme under which 800 basic skills agencies will be rebranded as "Brookside" learning centres offering literacy classes and workbooks featuring the show's stars. The move is *Brookside's* contribution to the Government's Year of Reading. Phil Redmond, the soap's creator, said: "We've exaggerated the story because it's drama but all the elements are very typical."

Free Books for Schools
Token, page 26



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Sir, there's a GMO in your soup

WAITERS will soon be required to warn diners when they are about to be served a portion of genetically modified food. Under government plans, pizza delivery boys, seaside landladies, hamburger bar attendants and fish and chip shop staff will also be required to tell customers about the origins of their meal's ingredients.

Waiters are to be obliged to list dishes with gene foods, reports Dominic Kennedy

The move is a compromise after the restaurant trade rebelled against ministers' plans to require caterers to declare GM ingredients on all menus. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is now proposing to give caterers the option of declaring GM ingredients by staff rather than in writing on menus or notices. Customers telephoning for delivery food will be told on the telephone.

The caterers, however, maintain that the new rules, due to be introduced in May along with labelling in shops, are still impractical, distressing and unenforceable. The Government has yet to decide exactly how waiters and waitresses will fulfil their duty to tell customers that their dinner has been laced with genetically modified or-

ganisms. Will they have to wait to be asked? Should they point to each item on the menu and say which are genetically modified before the diners select their meal? Should they wait for a customer to choose a certain dish, then announce it contains GMOs? Will there be a set form of wording?

What if the restaurateur decides to include the information on menus, but the customer asks for another dish as a side helping? Ian McKerracher, chief executive of the Restaurant Association, said: "You can imagine the scenario where an item not on the menu, like a bread roll, is being offered to the customer. The waiter would have to say: 'Good evening, sir. Do you care for a bread roll that con-

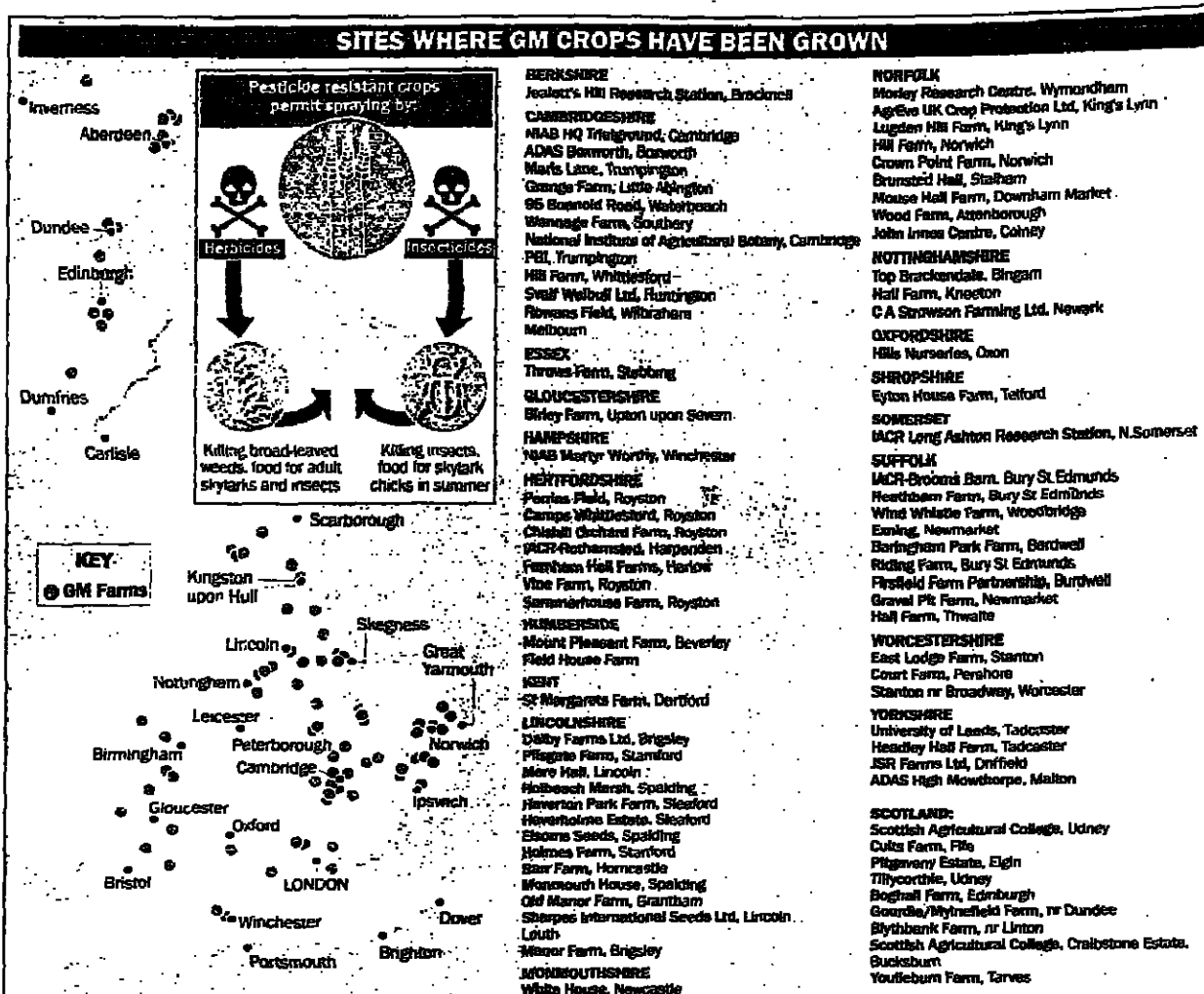
tains genetically modified soya?' It would be not only onerous but quite unworkable." Foreign customers could become alarmed and confused if waiters suddenly announced that their food contained genetically modified material, according to the British Hospitality Association. Phil Phillips, technical services manager for the association, which represents hotels, restaurants, canteens and contract caterers, said it might be difficult to explain to a Japanese or Danish guest.

"If the customer is not resident in the United Kingdom, they might say, 'Why are you telling me that?' If the caterer has to tell the consumer that there are genetically modified ingredients in particular dishes, to be quite honest he might as well not put them on the menu. People are not going to eat them if you highlight them."

The rules are part of a European Commission regulation negotiated when Jack Cunningham was in the chair during Britain's presidency last May. They apply only to genetically modified soya and maize, not tomato puree, which is already on sale in British supermarkets.

Councils fear the regulations will be impossible to police. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, representing food inspectors, said: "For enforcement officers, the technology you would require to test for every possible combination of genetic engineering would be so onerous that you would never be able to test the product sufficiently."

Ethical spotlight, page 28



Wildlife risk to be investigated

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A COMMITTEE of scientists, industrialists and wildlife experts is being set up to investigate the impact of genetically modified crops on farming, wildlife and the countryside.

The move follows concerns that the wider effects of the new agricultural technology are being ignored as the Government gears up for commercial plantings next year. Details of the plan will emerge today when the Government's Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment meets. It will hear details of research showing that more than 95 per cent of weeds, vital for the survival of farmland birds, could be eradicated by the new technology because it allows farmers to over-use herbicides.

The findings, which have been leaked to *The Times*, have come from studies of American farms, where modified crops such as herbicide-resistant soya have been commercially grown for four years. Brian Johnson, a senior scientist with



Skylark: thrives on weeds

English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, said yesterday: "American farmers are getting above 95 per cent eradication. Some are claiming a total annihilation of weeds in their fields. If you transfer that kind of efficiency here, you can imagine the impact on birds."

Dr Johnson said that British farmers using herbicides on traditionally developed crops were eradicating no more than 80 per cent of weeds, and in many cases only 60 per cent.

Much American wildlife lives in vast wilderness areas separate from the coun-

try's huge agricultural areas. But in Britain wildlife and farming are intertwined, with birds feeding on weeds, seeds and associated insects.

Friends of the Earth say that genetically modified crops could be the last straw for the skylark, whose breeding population has fallen by 54 per cent since 1969. Other birds at risk include the corn bunting, the grey partridge and the song thrush. Pipitrelle bats and horseshoe bats, which rely on insect prey, could suffer, and more intensive farming would hit the brown hare.

Yesterday it emerged that the Environment Agency, in an unpublished report written last summer, has highlighted similar fears of weedkiller overuse with genetically altered crops. These studies and mounting public disquiet have convinced the advisory committee that research is urgently needed into the wider concerns.

Yesterday Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, denied that this report was suppressed and was backed by sources at the advisory committee who said there had "merely been a small delay".

The Brits without brats is a dry affair

So who exactly is in charge, officials ask

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIALS across Whitehall were asking the same question last night: "Who is in charge?" After seven days when the Government's handling of the GM foods issue appeared to be in total confusion, several senior officials pointed to the lack of co-ordination.

"Over the last few days it has been crisis management," said one. "The combination of the tabloids and the Opposition have knocked the Government off course because we were not prepared."

One of the Government's worst weeks in terms of presentation has also happened when Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman, has taken a holiday. The result has been different ministers appearing on a variety of radio and television programmes saying different things. The Conservative Party has made the most of it as a consumer issue and there has been no concerted attempt to allay public concern.

Those who might be expected to be in charge have kept quiet. Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, in charge of the food safety aspects of GM food, has been in Brussels. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister in control of the environmental aspects, has been silent, as has Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, responsible for the business and scientific aspects.

They have left it to their more junior colleagues, Jeff Rooker, Food Minister, Michael Meacher, Environment Minister, and, worst of all, Lord Sainsbury of Turville — with his numerous links with GM food companies — to carry the can.

The Prime Minister has intervened personally, taking an aggressive line by insisting that GM foods are safe to eat. But other ministers have been more cautious, making clear that there is insufficient evidence about GM crops to even consider crop commercialisation. Tony Blair is talking about food in supermarkets while other ministers are talking about crops in fields.

Downing Street insists that Jack Cunningham is in charge of GM food. Yesterday both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of the Environment suggested that the Government might have to wait two years before there was enough evidence to prove that GM crops were environmentally safe. Dr Cunningham's office said that commercial crops "were likely to be sown in spring 2000".



Crop experiment giant admits farm safety lapse

Paul Wilkinson on the first trials prosecution

MONSANTO, one of the world's largest producers of genetically modified foods, yesterday admitted neglecting safety barriers intended to stop an altered crop escaping into the environment.

A test plot of winter oilseed rape had been treated to make it resistant to the weedkiller Roundup, also produced by Monsanto. Some experts and pressure groups fear that if it had spread to surrounding farmland, it might have cross-pollinated with other plants to produce a "superweed" resistant to herbicides.

Health and Safety Executive monitors who discovered the defective barrier issued a destruction order for the crop and any seeds harvested over the

next two years from a 50-metre radius around the site.

In the first prosecution of its kind in Britain, the American-controlled company admitted a breach of the 1990 Environmental Protection Act at a Lincolnshire farm last summer. It was fined £17,000 and ordered to pay £6,150 costs. Perryfields Holdings, a British-German wholesale seed merchant that was conducting its own rape trial on the site, similarly admitted breaching the Act and was fined £14,000 with £5,000 costs.

After the magistrates' hearing at Caistor, Lincolnshire, Friends of the

Earth described the penalties as pathetic. Peter Riley, its bio-technology campaigner, said: "It is just lunch money to these people. The controls they have to follow are too narrow anyway, there should be much greater monitoring of the potential risks involved."

Dan Verakis, a Monsanto spokesman, denied outside the court that cross-pollination might produce a superweed. "It was not a risk," he said. "Modified oilseed rape can only cross-pollinate with weedy relatives. There are no weeds with which it can cross-pollinate in the UK."

Simon Parrington, for the Health

and Safety Executive, had told the court that the trials had been approved by the Government under strict conditions. They included planting a six-yard wide barrier of sterile oilseed rape round the trial plots. The 60 by 40 metres trial ground at Rothwell, Lincolnshire, was visited by an HSE inspector making a routine check. The six-metre pollen barrier had been partially replaced by an earthen track. The farmer said that it was to let people tending the plot take farm machinery in.

Rhodri Price Lewis, counsel for the two firms, said: "This was not in any way a deliberate or reckless flouting of the controls." They now made site visits and regularly contacted those carrying out the trials.



The Lincolnshire site: a protective border was cut back

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The Brits without brats is a dry affair

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE anarchic reputation of the Brit awards ceremony suffered yesterday as it passed without its usual crop of embarrassing stunts and misbehaviour.

The event lacked the hell-raising stars who get themselves arrested or drench Cabinet ministers with water. There were only polite acceptance speeches and calls to end Third World poverty.

With no Oasis, no Spice Girls and no Jarvis Cocker, some observers said that older guests such as David Bowie, Bono of U2, Cher and Whitney Houston had set a mature example. Others suggested that the event reflected current pop music — middle of the road. Chris Evans, who hosted the event for two consecutive years but later declared that the Brits were "over" as an awards spectacle, stayed away.

What Cherie Booth made of the entertainment was difficult to tell. She, like the many Cabinet ministers present, was tucked so far out of harm's way that observers said it was

difficult even to see her. Organisers were determined to prevent a rerun of last year's headline-making event, when the Chumbawamba star Danbert Nobacon poured iced water over John Prescott. The only mineral water to make an appearance was sipped delicately by members of The Corrs, a band that receives more air play on Radio 2 than Radio 1.

Only Robbie Williams, celebrating his three Brit awards, seemed willing to behave in true rock'n'roll fashion. The 26-year-old singer, a drink and drugs addict told reporters: "Now I've got an excuse to get drunk again," and held up a sign saying "legless" before downing a series of double vodkas.

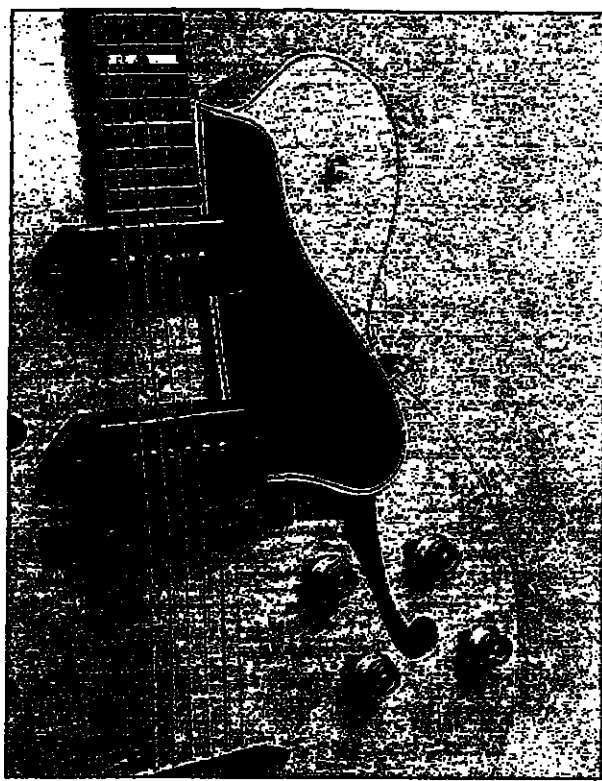
There may be cause for the muted celebrations. The singles market has collapsed. Although CD album sales in 1998 were up 8.3 per cent on 1997 with a turnover of £995.4 million, experts fear tough times ahead for the pop industry.

An influx of cheap imports from European countries with weaker currencies is taking sales away from UK record labels and profits are beginning to suffer from aggressive pricing and increasing promotional costs. Singles sales, which can make or break new names, have declined by 12 per cent from 1997.

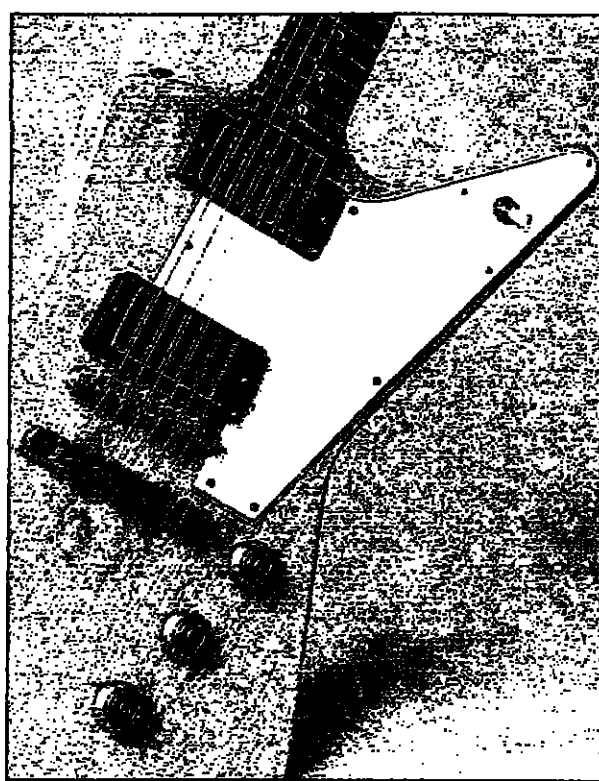
Few stars stayed behind for the after-show party at the London Arena. The Manic Street Preachers drifted off to the Met bar and Bono was spotted at Titanic with Angus Deayton. Robbie Williams had organised a party at China Whites in Soho but observers say he kept a low profile. Others simply went home early.



Cocker: replaced by wiser heads on older shoulders



1956 Gibson ES-350TD: bought by Clapton as a homage to Chuck Berry, his blues idol. Berry told Clapton how he had used the guitar on his classic recordings and Clapton eventually tracked one down in the 1980s. He surprised his hero by playing it onstage with him during a performance of *Roll Over Beethoven*. Reserve price £10,000.



1958 Gibson Explorer: extremely rare and made with an experimental solid body. Clapton bought it in the 1980s and used it to recreate classic hits such as *Crossroads* on his 1987 world tour. This Explorer is one of only 19 released commercially. Richard Chapman said: "I have never seen one in this country." Bidding is expected to top £75,000.



1974 Martin 000-28 steel string acoustic: as Clapton succumbed to drug and alcohol addiction in the early 1970s, he retreated from rock and developed an interest in country and acoustic music. From the mid-1970s he made extensive use of this Martin at home and in concert. It can be heard on the 1977 album *Slowhand*. Reserve price £10,000.

Cream of Clapton collection up for auction

By ADAM SHERWIN

HISTORIANS of popular music, collectors of rock memorabilia and, no doubt, a few speculators will be heading for New York in June. Eric Clapton, hailed as the world's greatest blues-rock guitarist, is to auction 100 guitars from his collection.

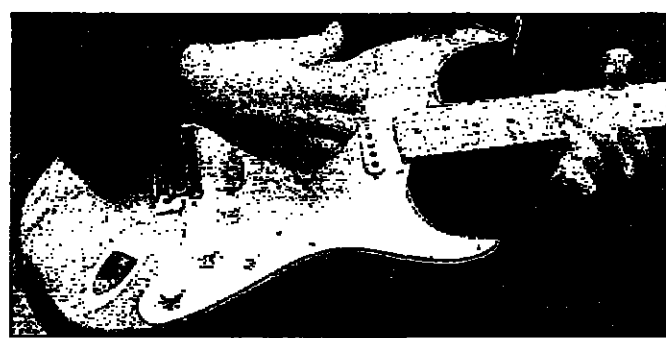
Musical instrument experts say that the Clapton collection amounts to a history of rock music because it contains some of the earliest electric guitars.

Although Clapton has an obsessive love for the tools of his trade, he is giving up almost his entire collection to raise funds for the drug rehabilitation centre he has set up in Antigua.

The sale, which is expected to raise £1 million, confirms that the electric guitar has become one of the defining objects of the 20th century. Even Downing Street occasionally reverberates to Tony Blair's Fender Stratocaster, Clapton's favourite model



Eric Clapton, greatest blues-rock guitarist



1956 Sunburst Fender Stratocaster: Clapton played the searing opening riff to *Layla*, in 1970, on "Brownie", the most valuable item in the sale. It is battered and scratched after years of touring and is scorched from cigarettes lodged in the neck during long solos. The Strat became his trademark guitar and Fender continues to produce personalised models for him. Expected to fetch up to £100,000.

and the item chosen by the Prime Minister as his "symbol of the century". Bidding is expected to reach £100,000 for "Brownie", the 1956 Fender Stratocaster that Clapton used to record *Layla* with Derek

and the Dominoes in 1970. Rare early works by Leo Fender, the American guitar pioneer of the 1950s, will be going under the hammer. Including a 1952 Fender Telecaster valued at £10,000. The Gibson ES-335 is the model

Clapton used to recreate the distorted blues rock of the 1966 trio Cream. There should also be a few bargains for fans wishing to own a guitar touched by genius.

Richard Chapman, Britain's leading historian of the electric guitar, who is helping Clapton to catalogue the collection, said: "Eric told me that he has love affairs with his guitars and gets inspiration from them. Sometimes he will put them away and rediscover them a decade later. This sale is an important history of the electric guitar as well as Eric Clapton's career."

Clapton, 53, who will attend the sale at Christie's New York on June 24, said: "I wanted to make a gesture to draw attention to the Crossroads Centre and demonstrate the extent of my personal commitment. The Christie's auction finally gives me a chance to share with others the instruments that have given me so much pleasure throughout my career."

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Picking a row with Lord Boston is like bayoneting a blancmange

If any booby really seeks to win his political spurs, I challenge him successfully to start a fight with Lord Boston of Faversham. It is simply not possible. Either to win a fight with Baroness Thatcher than pick one with Lord Boston.

You might as well try to provoke St Francis of Assisi into fistfights. Lord Boston is so insistent, emphatically, ineffably polite that it amounts almost to an act of aggression: a raised, silk-gloved fist in the face of a coarse word.

As Chairman of Committees in

the Upper Chamber, his lordship, who turns 70 next year, has to field those tiresome queries about fabric and facilities which, in a public school, would fall to the bursar. The row last year about the Lord Chancellor's wallpaper would have finished a bristler chap off, but Boston is of more pliable stuff.

Yesterday it fell to this acme of amiability, this summit of civility, this paragon of politesse, to answer the grumbles of the disabled over facilities in the Palace of Westminster for blind or partially sighted peers. Of course for Lord Boston,

after the steeplechase of Lord Irvine of Lairg's fixtures and fittings, this was a gentle afternoon trot. He excels in what might be called Exemplar Lord-speak: a language in which every hard object or decision crumbles, like a dunked biscuit, into a loose flotilla of limp subordinate clauses linked by extravagant courtesies.

"Your lordships may be so good as to call to mind what, in my noble friend's inimitable and luminous way, he has been kind enough to describe as the special

MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

expertise of your lordships' House ... This barrage of cordiality is proof even against a Tebbit against a grunting little posse of partially-sighted peers. It proved invincible. Boston bumbled respectfully away about 21 lifts, new handrails, "laminated floor covering", immovable ramps and "a guide dog exercise ground". There were audio recordings of proceedings, too.

His lordship said he would be "happy to consider" any further suggestions, but said it not in the perfunctory way most people do: he convinced us that he would be really, really happy — that his heart would sing — if anyone had a suggestion. After this, nobody had it in them to be cross. Lord Morris of Manchester (who had asked the original question) melted, but mentioned that the RNIB could advise. Oh, trilled Lord B, he would be "very happy to receive representations from the

RNIB". Then, with a beatific smile, he asked if he might congratulate Lord Morris on being invited by Rehabilitation International to chair their World Planning Group. "Morris beamed. Everyone rumbled 'Hear, hear'."

Lord Longford, 93, made a valiant bid to mix it with Boston. Some peers, he complained, "can't get the help they need. Can't we do more? They're stuck. Stuck."

Longford might as well have bayoneted a blancmange. It takes two to quarrel, and Boston was not playing. When Lord Ashley of

Stoke, who has been cured of profound deafness, tried to raise the stakes and discuss other disabilities, Boston was all smiles. Sadly, he simply *mustn't* stray from the terms of the question, "but we're all very pleased with the enormous progress Lord Ashley has made himself — and has endeavoured to pass on to others." Hear, hear took on a special piquancy.

Lord Boston is an example to us all. Why, in that case, does one have to suppress a sneaking desire to watch him and Norman Tebbit wrestling in mud?

Gays to launch court battle for asylum rights

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A GAY man is to ask the High Court to decide whether homosexuals are a separate social group entitled to claim asylum in the UK to escape homophobic persecution in their home countries.

The court is also to be asked to rule whether it is reasonable to send a homosexual home and expect him to pretend to be straight in order to escape persecution.

Mherdard Jawdat, 26, is to bring the test case after a special immigration adjudicator said he could return to Tehran so long as he wore his hair short and avoided wearing make-up on the street.

Charles Bennett, the adjudicator, ruled that even if the police in Iran recognised him as someone they had previously accused of being gay, "they will see him with short hair and conclude (to their thinking) he has seen the error of his former ways, or turned from what they will consider his former wickedness, or that he has simply 'grown up'."

An Immigration Appeal Tribunal upheld a decision by Mr Bennett to refuse asylum to Mr Jawdat. Mr Bennett said that society did not recognise gays as a social group any more than smokers, left-handed or red-haired people, or those who had lost a limb.

Mark Henderson, counsel

for Mr Jawdat, told the High Court that the Iranian authorities regarded gays as "corrupt parasites" and a "tangible manifestation of westernisation". He added that homosexuals in Iran were punished by torture and even death.

Mr Justice Collins gave Mr Jawdat leave to seek judicial review of the decision by the tribunal. Mr Jawdat, who had been held in an immigration detention in Rochester prison in Kent since November, was given bail on condition that he lives at the home in Bayswater, West London, of a businessman friend who stood bail for him.

The High Court case is the latest attempt by gays to persuade the Government to accept that homosexuals represent a specific social group under the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees.

Anyone claiming asylum under the Convention would have to prove they had a "well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, membership of a particular social group or political opinion". It is understood that a homosexual claiming persecution would have to come from a country where persecution is systematic or almost government-sponsored.

Mark Watson of Stonewall, the gay rights lobby group,

said last night: "The UN convention on refugees was created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The Nazis thought gays were a separate social group and persecuted them."

"If the Nazis recognised them as a separate social group, then we should have no difficulty in recognising them as such."

In the past governments have not defined in the abstract whether homosexuals might or might not be a social group. Individual claims are considered on their merits with sexual orientation taken into account.

Thousands of deportation orders on immigrants may have to be cancelled after the Appeal Court ruled the Home Secretary had to prove that the political situation in a country was safe for the return of asylum-seekers.

Three judges ruled that Mohammed Arif, aged 36, from Luton in Bedfordshire, could stay in Britain because Jack Straw had not proved he could safely return to the disputed area of Azad Kashmir.

Mr Arif, who fled to Britain in 1992, was sentenced to seven years' hard labour in his absence on "false" charges including incitement to murder at a demonstration against the ruling Muslim Convention.



The Government wants to reduce the number of refugees who seek judicial reviews

Straw acts to curb appeals

ASYLUM-SEEKERS will lose their accommodation and vouchers for food and clothing if they bring a High Court challenge to decisions barring them from Britain, the Government disclosed yesterday (Richard Ford writes).

The draconian measure is aimed at curbing the number of refugees who mount judicial review proceedings over decisions taken during consideration of their applications for asylum.

The move, revealed in a Home Office document outlining how a new Asylum Support Directorate will operate, provoked anger among

groups working with refugees. Rachel Rees, communications director of the Refugee Council, said: "This will effectively mean a denial of natural justice."

Under the Government's plan any asylum-seeker who seeks to bring a judicial review will not be able to stay in state-funded hostels or housing or receive vouchers to be exchanged for food or clothing at local shops. They will be forced to rely on family or friends for support or risk being destitute.

Jack Straw is to impose the "no accommodation, no voucher" rule after plans to

ban asylum-seekers from having any right to launch judicial review proceedings were abandoned. The Home Office is concerned that legal aid is being misused by asylum-seekers bringing court actions to spin out their applications.

In 1997, there were almost 2,000 applications for judicial review, the vast majority being legally aided. The Home Office said that in many cases leave to seek judicial review was rejected by the courts.

Under Mr Straw's plan for an overhaul of the asylum and immigration laws, asylum-seekers will no longer receive social security benefits.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tories broke faith on tax, says Maude

The Tory party must work to regain its reputation as the party of low and honest taxation, because it had lost the "people's trust on tax", Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, said yesterday. Among the reasons the Conservatives were "pasted" at the last election was because the people felt they were guilty of a breach of faith over tax, he said.

The tax burden rose during the last Government and the Tories should have been more open about the taxes they did increase. Mr Maude effectively acknowledged to an international conference on tax planning that a Tory government would never put up the basic rates of tax. "Margaret Thatcher's legacy is such that no serious political party can now contemplate increasing the basic or higher rate of income tax and hope to get elected," he said.

Cronyism attacked

Tony Blair was accused yesterday of packing the eight new Regional Development Agencies for England with Labour supporters. Lord Hammingfield, Tory deputy chairman of the Local Government Association, said the Government had revealed "chronic cronyism" in the way it had selected council representatives to the new agencies, which will start work in April. He said the party had taken 65 per cent of the seats although it had 46 per cent of councillors in England.

Judicial role 'wrong'

The Lord Chancellor faced calls that he should give up his role as head of the judiciary under a reformed House of Lords. The Liberal Democrat peer Lord Lester of Herne Hill told the Lords that there were disadvantages in the Lord Chancellor's being both a member of the Cabinet and head of the English judiciary. He was backing Lord Steyn, a law lord, who argued that the Lord Chancellor was always a government spokesman who pursued its political agenda.

Trip rules tightened

MPs have been banned from taking overseas trips paid for by the host country and tabling questions or motions supporting them. The Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges has accepted advice from Sir Gordon Downey, the former Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, that several MPs may be breaching rules. Sir Gordon said: "For every worthwhile visit there may well be another which, in terms of public perception, was seen as a perk."

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English couple sue Scots for racism

Commission for Racial Equality is backing damages claim, report
Bill Frost and Shirley English

FRANK and Sandra Walters had been hoping for a peaceful retirement when they moved from a tough Liverpool suburb to the quiet of a Scottish village.

They are now living in England again, claiming that they were driven out by a stream of anti-English taunts that culminated in them being barred from the village pub.

Today they are taking their claim for racial discrimination to Dumfries Sheriff Court with backing from the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE).

The case comes amid a growing number of claims by English people living in Scotland that they have suffered racism at the hands of Scots. John and Jane Annable, originally from Nottinghamshire, announced this week that anti-English abuse was forcing them to leave their home in Musselburgh, near Edinburgh, and return to England.

One of the fiercest with Lothian and Borders Police said there had been an increase in allegations of anti-English racism since the decision to set up the Scottish parliament. The CRE said that since it began records of anti-English racism five years ago there had been a total of 22 complaints, six last year.

Mr and Mrs Walters are claiming a total of £20,000 from Colin Pearson, publican of the Farmers Inn in Clarencefield, near Dumfries, and his wife, Jacqueline. They claim that the couple banned Mr Walters and that meant they could not use the neighbouring village post office, which Mrs Pearson runs.

Mr Walters, 51, is suing the publican for £10,000 for barring him from the pub and refusing him the service of the post office, and is claiming £5,000 from Mrs Pearson. Mrs Walters, 53, is suing Mr Pearson for £5,000.

The English couple claim that a "clique of villagers" led them to leave their housing association property in Clarencefield, where a large proportion of the population is English.

They say that in addition to suffering verbal abuse, rubbish was dumped at their door and placards were put up with the slogan "English out".

Mr and Mrs Walters allege that, even before receiving a solicitor's letter stating that he was barred from the pub, Mr Walters was given the "cold shoulder" on the premises and on one evening *Flower of Scotland* was played 16 times on the jukebox.

Before moving to Clarencefield in April 1997, Mr Walters worked on the assembly line at Ford's Halewood plant and his wife was a legal secretary. When their health failed, they decided to retire to Scotland.

"A fortnight after moving to Clarencefield we were subjected to racial abuse and taunting," Mrs Walters said. "They called us English scum and told us to get back across the border where we belonged, and the taunting never stopped. Before too long, we withdrew from village life, in fact withdrew from life altogether. I sat behind closed curtains taking sedatives and wondering why we were being picked on. Our only crime was being born south of the border."

Mr Walters, who walks with the aid of a stick, said his first visit to the Farmers Inn predated the onset of a campaign against the couple. He claimed that he was singled out for discrimination by regulars because of his accent.

"I went in to make friends, have a few pints and play a game of pool. We had just moved and the local pub seemed a good place to meet fellow villagers. But all I encountered was coldness and hostility. The kids put *Flower of Scotland* on the jukebox 16 times in one evening and muttered about English scum."

Mr and Mrs Walters claim that as relations with the community declined further, gangs of young people began to gather outside their home to chant anti-English slogans during the small hours. Then, stick, said his first visit to the Farmers Inn predated the onset of a campaign against the couple. He claimed that he was singled out for discrimination by regulars because of his accent.



Home bleak home: Frank and Sandra Walters say they were driven out by taunts. Other English villagers said that they had been made welcome

they say, there were late-night abusive telephone calls. "We are not against them, even now. We just cannot understand why they picked on us," Mr Walters said. "But there is racism in Scotland and someone must make a stand against those responsible."

Mrs Walters added: "Who would ever have imagined that racism was alive in a quiet corner of the borders? People should be allowed to live wherever they like. After all, this is supposed to be the United Kingdom."

Many of the villagers, half of whom are English, are behind the Pearsons, saying that there is no racism and that English people have been made welcome.

Mr and Mrs Pearson said they had received threatening

messages on their answerphone from men with London accents who told them they were coming to "fix you for messing with the English".

The couple said that they had always welcomed English people to the area. Mr Pearson, 42, who ran pubs in England and has an English father, said: "There is no anti-English feeling here. Half of the people are English. It simply does not exist."

Loreburn Housing, which rented a bungalow to the Walters, said that the couple's first complaints made no mention of racism and centred on common types of disputes with neighbours. The anti-English claims did not arise for some months.

The association was also the subject of a complaint to the

CRE by the couple, which was later dropped. The CRE said that the decision to fund the case against Mr and Mrs Pearson, which could cost £100,000 if dismissed, was not taken lightly.

"Victims of racism are not just of Asian or Afro-Caribbean origin... hatred and prejudice do not just depend on colour; they may be alive north of the border," a spokesman said.

Dumfries and Galloway has recently seen the re-emergence of an extreme nationalist organisation, the Scottish Separatist Group (SSG). The group, which uses postbox addresses in Dumfries and Galloway, sent a three-page pamphlet to *The Galloway Gazette* last week which pledged to fight to "aid English immigration" and gave advice on how

to make explosive devices. The pamphlet also declared support for the Dublin-based Scottish National Liberation Army, allegedly run by Adam Busby.

Mr Busby, who is widely believed to be sole member of the liberation army, was linked to a wave of hoax letter bombs and death threats in 1994. There is a warrant for his arrest in Scotland.

Although police and politicians say that the SSG is the work of "just one or two sad people", there is popular concern that the area will be tainted by the prejudice. Dumfries and Galloway, where a fifth of the population is English, relies heavily on the thousands of tourists who travel north every year.

Detective Chief Superintendent

Tom McCulloch said that the area did not have a racism problem but he admitted that there was "a minority" with extreme views and that anti-English groups had been monitored in the past.

Local people acknowledge that low-level harassment of the English was common and worsened after the film *Braveheart*, about the nationalist hero William Wallace, but they have no truck with extremists.

Ruby Sankey, 54, from Dumfries, who has an English husband, said: "I have heard people say they don't like the English, usually after a few pints. They call my husband E.B. (English Bastard), but it is just a joke. We don't take it seriously. Everyone knows that we need the English for tourism."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mother is buried with moors girl

Ann West, mother of the moors murder victim Lesley Ann Downey, was buried in her daughter's grave in a cemetery near Manchester yesterday. Mrs West, 69, died from liver cancer last week. 34 years after the killing of Lesley Ann, 10, by Myra Hindley and Ian Brady. The funeral was attended by family and friends, who are determined to keep the location of the grave secret. Supporters of Mrs West's campaign to keep Hindley in jail for life will be able to pay tribute at a memorial service later this year.

Cigarettes plea

In a letter to Tessa Jowell, the Minister for Public Health, a coalition of health groups yesterday demanded the banning of additives such as sugar that allegedly make the taste of cigarettes more appealing to children.

£1.1m award

John O'Connor, of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, who suffered brain damage when a steel pipe hit his head in 1996 while working on the Jubilee Line extension of London's Underground, accepted £1.1 million to settle his damages claim.

Close to his heart

Jan Gillilan, 53, a security guard, was rushed to hospital in Dundee with a suspected heart attack, still holding the £2 million he was carrying to fill a cash machine. He later underwent a triple heart bypass operation in Aberdeen.

Sick horses link

Epidemics of the world's most lethal horse disease, African horse sickness, are almost certainly triggered by the climate shift known as El Niño, scientists at the Institute for Animal Health in Pirbright, Surrey, report in *Nature*.

Global tubbies

The makers of the Teletubbies television programme, now being exported round the world, have replaced Jessica Smith, a British girl, as the face of the sun with that of a Korean child to appeal to the country's children.

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'Doc Hollywood' under legal knife

The doyen of Tinseltown's plastic surgeons stands accused of cutting remarks, Giles Whittell writes

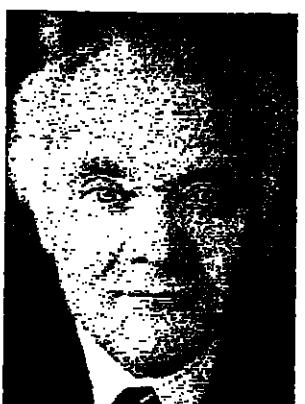
HOLLYWOOD'S best-known plastic surgeon enlarged the breasts of Sylvester Stallone's former girlfriend without her consent to make them look "big but perky", and often pretended to work on Michael Jackson's nose without in fact lifting his scalpel, according to court papers.

The surgeon was also accused of mocking Don Johnson's penis and using a female assistant as a "human catalogue". Even in Los Angeles, affidavits have seldom contained as much freakish detail as those submitted on Tuesday by four former employees of Dr Steven Hoeftin, the surgeon known as "Doc Hollywood" for his miracle-working cures of the smiles and silhouettes of the stars.

Pamela Anderson, Zsa Zsa Gabor and the Sultan of Brunei are among dozens of celebrity clients to have slipped through a special private entrance into Dr Hoeftin's tiny Santa Monica operating theatre, known as the Aspen Room, in pursuit of physical perfection. They may hesitate before arranging future visits. Dr Hoeftin faces a legal assault in which for the first time his plaintiffs have named names and offered details of alleged activities in his clinic.

The most peculiar involve

Sylvester Stallone and Angie Everhart, his former girlfriend. According to Barbara Maywood, a Hoeftin employee who with three colleagues sued the doctor for alleged sexual harassment and battery in 1995, which was later settled out of court, Ms Everhart arranged that year to have her breasts reshaped, but not enlarged; the man from the Rambo films had other ideas, Ms Maywood claimed.



Hoeftin: "mocked" his unconscious patients

"After [Ms Everhart] was anaesthetised, her boyfriend, Sylvester Stallone, proceeded to enter the operating room," she wrote in her affidavit. "To my knowledge, his presence during the procedure was not authorised by the patient. Mr Stallone told Dr Hoeftin to make her breasts 'big but perky, kinda like a 17-year-old'. Dr Hoeftin acquiesced." After an uncomfortable recovery, Ms Everhart had her



Stallone: had final word on girlfriend's breasts

breasts reduced to their original size, according to Ms Maywood, who worked for Dr Hoeftin for 17 years.

The affidavit also claims that Dr Hoeftin often faked nose surgery on Michael Jackson, the pop star, by changing the time on the surgery clocks. It accuses the surgeon of inspecting the anaesthetised Mr Jackson's penis and concluding "you know, he's never used it"; of examining Don Johnson's genitals and asking how his former actress-wife, Melanie Griffith, could have been happy with them; and of teasing an unconscious Elizabeth Taylor about her lower torso. "What's a young guy doing with this old stuff?" he is alleged to have asked, possibly referring to Ms Taylor's then husband, Larry Fortensky.

In a separate affidavit, Lydia Benjamin, Dr Hoeftin's former receptionist, claims he operated on her gratis numerous times and showed her off to prospective clients as a live model of what they could expect.

The surgeon settled out of court with Ms Maywood, Ms Benjamin and two others in 1996, paying each of them five-figure sums. Their complaints triggered an investigation by the California Medical Board, however, that may yet put him behind bars.



Angie Everhart, Sylvester Stallone's former girlfriend and client of stars' surgeon

Hillary confirms Senate ambition

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY Clinton has given the strongest signal yet that she might take the unprecedented step of running for office next year while a sitting First Lady, despite misgivings among the powerful Jewish lobby that she is too pro-Palestinian.

The President's wife said that she was "deeply gratified" by the large number of people who had encouraged her to consider seeking the Senate seat that will become vacant with the retirement of Daniel Moynihan.

In a brief statement, just four days after President Clinton's acquittal from impeachment, she said: "Until now I have not been able to do so, but I will give careful thought to a potential candidacy in order to reach a decision later this year." Mr Clinton, stoking speculation, declared his wife would be a "terrific" senator.

Even the cautious suggestion that Mrs Clinton was considering a Senate bid was enough to set off a media and political frenzy yesterday. She has set no timetable for a decision, but three of her friends confided that she had already begun returning calls to supporters. She wanted to know more about running a campaign and raising a war chest of up to \$15 million (£9.2 million).

By any standards, a Hillary-for-Senate race in New York would be a monster rumble. The state is renowned for raucous campaigns, usually brimming with insults and belligerence. Given the size of the Jewish vote, her declared support for the eventual creation of a Palestinian state — which goes beyond US policy — could count strongly against her.

Judge weighs Clinton contempt charge

BY IAN BRODIE

RESIDENT. Clinton received an ominous warning yesterday that his legal woes may not be over when a judge said she is considering holding him in contempt for denying his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

With Mr Clinton acquitted by the Senate on impeachment charges, Judge Susan Webber Wright said that it was now time to address the contempt issue arising from the Paula Jones sexual-harassment case in Arkansas. The President would be fined, possibly heavily, if found in contempt in the civil case. Judges can so punish lying witnesses with prison,

but legal experts consider that to be out of the question for a sitting President.

Judge Wright attended the deposition hearing in January last year when Mr Clinton denied having sexual relations with Ms Lewinsky. Months later he admitted giving a false and misleading impression, but denied perjury. He argued that the definition of sexual relations used during the deposition did not include oral sex. Ms Lewinsky, however, swore that she had sexual activities with Mr Clinton that were covered by the definition.

By steadfastly refusing to admit that he lied, Mr Clinton may have given himself some protection from contempt of court, although he also denied having a "sexual

affair" with Ms Lewinsky, a term not defined during the deposition. Judge Wright has given lawyers until tomorrow to decide whether they want her to yield the case to another judge because of her tangential connection with the impeachment trial, in which her clerk gave an affidavit.

Mr Clinton's lawyers refused to comment, but they may argue that because Mrs Jones has settled her case out of court for \$850,000 (£520,000), no judge has the authority to hold him in contempt.

Lawyers for Mrs Jones said that Judge Wright, one of Mr Clinton's law students when he taught at the University of Arkansas, had been offended to discover that he had been deceptive.

OJ's trophy auctioned

Los Angeles: In a coda to O.J. Simpson's murder trial, his most treasured possession has been auctioned for \$230,000 (£141,000), with the proceeds going to relatives of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman (Giles Whittell writes). He was found liable for their deaths in a civil trial. The Heisman Trophy, awarded to Mr Simpson as the top college-level American footballer of 1968, had been expected to fetch \$4 million.

Butcher's murdered wife left in freezer

New York: A retired butcher has been charged with murder after leaving his sons a note saying "Mom's in the freezer" (James Bone writes). Salvatore Rosa, 75, was then found sitting in his underwear in his bloody bathtub, suffering from self-inflicted cuts to his neck and wrists.

Mr Salvatore told police at the weekend that Esther, 70, his wife of 52 years, was missing. Two searches of his house

in the affluent New Jersey suburb of Lyndhurst failed to find the body, even though investigators opened the basement meat-freezer. "There were frozen items on top of the body," said John Santulli, the Bergen County prosecutor.

The couple's two sons joined the search and, after three days, Mr Salvatore left his note. Police said that he had apparently beaten his wife with a crowbar during a row.

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Police prevent rally speech by Anwar's wife

FROM DAVID WATTS IN KUALA LUMPUR

POLICE moved yesterday to head off an accelerating political drive by Wan Azizah, wife of Malaysia's deposed Deputy Prime Minister.

Three thousand people had gathered to hear her speak at a party outside Kota Kinabalu, the capital of East Malaysia, to mark the end of the Muslim fasting month, but police officers told her she must not address the meeting or hold a press conference.

The size of the crowd surprised even her organisers: "We never expected such a turnout," one said, despite widespread support for her husband, Anwar Ibrahim, in an area that feels little political affinity with the rest of the country: it has a large Christian native population.

In peninsular Malaysia thousands have been attracted to similar gatherings over the past few days. She has been using such gatherings and open houses to celebrate Chinese New Year without interference because, until now, they were deemed untouchable as important religious or private social occasions.

Although yesterday's meeting was organised by the

national Muslim youth organisation, once headed by her husband, she has been careful to use only the Social Justice Movement (ADIL), which she founded last December, to host most meetings.

Few doubt, however, that when the time comes she will head a political movement. There are rumours that she will challenge the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in his own constituency. State elections are due to be called in Sabah at any time and Dr Mahathir is due there today as part of an attempt to ensure that the ruling United National Malays Organisation makes a good showing.

That is seen as vital as a lead-in to a general election that must be held by the end of next year. It is precisely because Dr Mahathir has been losing credibility so quickly within the party organisation that Sabah is becoming a barometer for the Government.

Senior party officials boy-

cotted Muslim religious celebrations hosted by Dr Mahathir recently, indicating his political decline even within his own dricks.

As the Prime Minister tours the east, the trial of his former deputy resumes and the inquiry into the beating of Mr Anwar by police officers opens. Both have put the Prime Minister on the defensive, particularly the beating inquiry, which he launched only after strong pressure. The inquiry report will be handed to the King rather than to the Government.

After his Sabah visit, the Prime Minister will begin a tour of the whole country to try to restore his battered reputation in the wake of a disastrous meeting with Malaysian students in London in which they called for his resignation to his face.

In a new year message to the Chinese population — 22 million people, or 30 per cent of the total population — Mr Anwar told them to ignore all government propaganda about the risk of new racial clashes in the country which, he said, was being used to divert attention from reform.



Wan Azizah: she has been using gatherings and private houses to put her case

WORLD IN BRIEF

Pakistan military courts are curbed

Islamabad: Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled yesterday that military trials cannot be used for cases against civilians, sparing 14 people from death sentences imposed in the newly established military courts. Such trials were "unconstitutional and without lawful authority", the court said. Any similar cases had to be transferred to anti-terrorist courts.

The Government set up the new military tribunals in the violence-racked Sindh province in November to try to reduce the rising crime rate. In military trials, defence lawyers are not allowed to call witnesses and cannot argue verbally. (AP)

Greenland plays safe

Copenhagen: Greenland's governing Siumut Social Democratic Party lost three seats but remained the biggest single party in the home-rule parliament on the vast Arctic island after this week's local elections (Christopher Follett writes). With all 27,500 votes counted from Tuesday's election, Siumut won 35 per cent support, taking 11 seats in the 31-member home-rule assembly in Nuuk, the capital. Greenland has a population of 55,000, the majority being Eskimos.

'Cybersex' stabbing

Perth: An Australian man was found guilty here of causing grievous bodily harm to his wife by stabbing her nine times because she had an Internet affair. Barry McCormack, 45, admitted in the Supreme Court of Western Australia that he became jealous of his wife's "cybersex" affair. He was found not guilty of a more serious charge of the attempted murder of Alison Garton, who spent several hours a night exchanging intimate e-mails with a man 2,500 miles away. (AFP)

Model's taxing task

Perth: A fee of A\$1 million (about £400,000) to supermodel Elle Macpherson, right, for a series of television commercials intended to promote Western Australia has been withheld amid concern that she may be avoiding tax, said a report in *The Australian* newspaper. The model's Australian publicist, Patti Mostyn, referred all queries to Macpherson's New York-based management. (AFP)



Iraq braced for raids

Baghdad: Iraq expects a major US assault by April following Washington's warnings of punishment if Baghdad carries out its threats to attack Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. "The US escalation started two days ago and will continue in coming weeks to prepare a new military strike against Iraq... within 45 days at the most," said Babel, a newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday. (AFP)

Dangers of smoking

Columbia, Tennessee: A woman who allegedly wanted to teach her new husband a lesson about the dangers of smoking in bed has been charged with burning down their house. Linda Stewart, 39, put a lit cigarette on the couple's bed and left the house, police said. Her husband, Tim, was not home when the blaze started. When he returned, the house was gutted. The couple were married two months ago. (AP)

Mugabe plans to use 'brute force' against opponents



Mugabe: facing a host of credible opponents

THE 21st of February Movement is to make its sole annual appearance on Sunday, as it does every year at this time in Zimbabwe, for its child members to perform stiff song-and-dance routines before their patron, President Mugabe, on his 75th birthday. The state-controlled *Herald* newspaper is planning its usual supplement to coincide with the President's birthday.

Companies pay for advertisements in which they congratulate "His Excellency". But the contrived adulation for the ageing former teacher, officially revered as "the most consistent and authentic revolutionary leader", is expected to be thinner than ever this year. At an age when he might be expected to be writing his memoirs and attending to the model piggeries at his home in Zvimba, 40 miles west of Harare, Mr

Muted joy at President's birthday may herald a crackdown, writes Jan Raath in Harare

Mugabe is set on a potentially bloody course as he attempts to retain power while the authoritarian regime he has built up over almost 20 years collapses in corruption and ineptitude.

"He is totally overwhelmed and at a loss how to get his country out of the mess that it is in precisely because of his own policies," said Welshman Neube, a leading lawyer. "The only thing he has a plan for is how to retain power, and that is by brute force."

For the first time since independence, Mr Mugabe is faced with a range of credible voices, unafraid and drawn from a sophisticated society of

young black professionals who have resisted his attempts to bludgeon or buy them into compliance. At the head is the national constitutional Association (NCA), a coalition of about 40 academic, human rights and professional organisations, backed by the powerful labour movement, which has been running a vigorous campaign for a new constitution.

There are plans for a political party to emerge from the NCA to challenge the ruling Zanu (PF) party in parliamentary elections due next year. From the same base as the membership of the NCA is an independent press that

has infuriated the leadership of Zanu (PF) with a stream of revelations about corruption and bungling.

Mr Mugabe has signalled his intention to crush the independent press, with the arrest and torture last month of the editor and a reporter of the *Zimbabwe Standard*, and to confront the widely respected judiciary.

There were signs of a fresh campaign this week in an unprecedented series of tirades in the *Herald* against the independent press. "There will be worse to come," said John Makumbe, an outspoken political commentator.

But Mr Mugabe's fundamental weakness is that he has no power to dismiss the judges. Frustrated by his shrinking influence, he is expected to use rough tactics. "I have a degree in violence," he said ominously last year.

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French regret euro 'catastrophe'

Adam Sage reports from Paris on fading enthusiasm even among europhiles for the new currency

EUROPE'S new currency, the euro, was condemned yesterday as ridiculous and catastrophic by French europhiles who vaulted its launch just six weeks ago.

With the euro continuing to slip against the dollar, even the pro-European French Government agreed yesterday that public enthusiasm for the currency was weak.

The confession marked a sharp mood change since the euro was launched on New Year's Day by champagne-sipping finance ministers from the 11 countries involved in monetary union.

French leaders had hoped that the lavish launch party for the euro would give birth to a currency that was both

strong and popular. However, a month and a half later it is neither. Recently it has been trading at about \$1.12, compared with an initial \$1.19, prompting the strongly pro-European daily *Le Monde* to conclude: "The excitement has fallen away fast."

Scepticism among traders is reflected by that of the French public. The Finance Ministry believed that shoppers would turn en masse to euro cheques and credit cards at the start of the three-year transition period that will end with the disappearance of the franc. Instead, buyers have turned their backs on the currency. The Bank of France, for instance, said yesterday that euro transactions accounted for 0.03 per cent of the 14 million cheques written daily in the country.

According to the Commerce Ministry, no more than 15,000 people have paid for goods in euros since its launch. The europhile Parisian newspaper *Libération* said that the figures were ridiculously low, adding: "The volume [of transactions] in euros borders on the anecdotal."

Camille Jacquemont, a senior executive with the supermarket group Prisunic, said: "The public is shunning the euro. On sales of Fr25 billion (£2.5 billion) since the start of January, we must have cashed 400 cheques in euros."

"That's catastrophic when you consider the effort we made to train personnel, distribute calculators and label prices in both francs and euros."

"If the French do not start getting used to it today, they



A woman pays for her goods with euro notes at Flayosc, west of Cannes, during a week-long experiment to accustom people to the new currency

will have a terrible shock in 2002" when euro coins and notes are introduced, he said.

Analysts say that the euro is no more popular in the other ten countries participating in the new currency than it is in France.

The French supermarket chain Carrefour has cashed 1,150 euro cheques in its French shops, but none in its

Spanish or Italian stores, for example, Pierre-Antoine Delhommais, an economics commentator for *Le Monde*, said the euro's failure to win public approval helped to explain its poor showing on the international currency markets.

"The euro is not able to inspire the faith and confidence of the people," he said. "Why should an American or Japanese investor show less indifference than the population of euroland?"

The European Commission blames banks for the "homeopathic" use of euros across the zone now known as euroland.

On Tuesday, it announced plans to investigate eight leading European banks for suspected collusion in fixing charges relating to the currency.

The banks have decided to charge up to 1 or 2 per cent commission for accepting international payments in euros, a move that has prompted a volley of criticism.

However, pro-Europeans in Paris suggested yesterday that the Commission was using the banks as a scapegoat for the failure of its project. The French Commerce Ministry

said: "The euro seems very distant to people in France, a long way away from their daily lives."

LINKS
http://ec.europa.eu/monetary/index-en.htm
— The EU's home page
http://ec.europa.eu/monetary/monetary.htm — Exchange rates
http://www.ecb.int/ — Central Bank



A brochure explaining the euro to the public

Romanian police seize miners' march leader

FROM SEAN HILLEN IN BUCHAREST

ROMANIAN police yesterday broke up a march by thousands of protesting coalminers heading towards Bucharest and arrested Miron Cozma, their militant leader, after violent clashes.

Cozma, who was sentenced this week to 18 years in prison for his role in the 1991 anti-reform riots that toppled the first post-Ceausescu Government, was arrested with 600 fellow miners by anti-terrorism agents as police waded in to the protesters near Stoenesti, 93 miles north of Bucharest.

More than 5,000 miners had swept past police roadblocks and headed towards the capital, where they intended to protest outside government offices. The miners' convoy of buses and cars outflanked successive makeshift roadblocks before police moved in at dawn. Scores of people, including civilians, were injured in the clashes.

"Cozma has been duly arrested after a squad of armed police moved into a crowd of miners after identifying him," said Constantin Dudu Ionescu, the Interior Minister. "We had to use force as we were attacked severely."

Coalminers from the Jiu Valley, who enjoyed a measure of political protection under President Ceausescu, have been a thorn in the side of the current Government's economic reforms, which include the closure of loss-making pits.

Last month Cozma, 47, led nearly 15,000 miners on another march on Bucharest, which was called off halfway only after talks between him and Radu Vasile, the Prime Minister, secured pay increases and a suspension of pit closures.

The miners set off again for Bucharest on Tuesday, after Romania's Supreme Court passed sentences on Cozma on Monday for his role in leading the miners who rampaged through Bucharest in 1991.



Amin's view in Austria's Wiener Zeitung on the march of the miners, once allies of the former dictator, Ceausescu

Three die in Amman gun battle

Amman: Three Jordanians on trial for murder hijacked the police van driving them from court yesterday and exchanged gunfire with security forces. Police said one of the hijackers and two policemen were killed.

The three men were facing charges of killing 12 people in two separate incidents last year. Their victims included the chargé d'affaires of the Iraqi Embassy in Amman.

The newly crowned King Abdullah, escorted by senior security aides, was at the main police station in Amman to follow up on the gunfight, a rare occurrence in this country.

Before becoming King, Abdullah was a major-general in command of an elite commando unit responsible for internal security and the Royal Family's safety.

The three suspects succeeded in grabbing the guards' guns en route from the court to prison, after which the prison van overturned. Police reinforcements surrounded the van and exchanged gunfire with the men for two hours.

Key witness withholds blood scandal evidence

BY ADAM SAGE

CONFUSION dominated the trial of three former ministers concerning their role in France's contaminated blood scandal as a key witness refused to testify yesterday.

Claude Weisselberg, a former government adviser, was well placed to substantiate or invalidate ministerial claims that they were ignorant of the emerging Aids threat in the mid-1980s.

But Dr Weisselberg declined to give evidence because he is himself threatened with poisoning charges in connection with the distribution of HIV-infected blood to haemophiliacs and hospital patients in 1985.

His refusal was another blow to the heavily criticised trial of Laurent Fabius, the 52-year-old former Prime Minister, and his former Health Ministers, Georgina Dufoix, 55, and Edmond Hervé, 56. They are accused of criminal negligence in allowing French blood banks to distribute contaminated products.

However, the newly created Court of Justice of the Republic,

which was set up to judge ministers accused of wrongdoing in office, has failed to press the high-profile defendants or elucidate the truth, according to the French media.

Christian Le Guehec, the presiding judge, has been pilloried by the press for alleged gaffes, laziness and bad manners towards relatives of the seven victims who brought charges against the ministers.

Last week, for instance, he forgot to turn off his microphone before asking a fellow judge to remind him who Michel Garreta was. Dr Garreta is a central figure in the tainted-blood scandal and someone most of the rest of the French population could identify with ease.

Le Monde described the first week of the trial as "confusion and approximations". Judge Le Guehec only won the approval of French newspapers when he announced on the first day of the trial that he would force recalcitrant witnesses to testify.

But yesterday, when Dr Weisselberg invoked the right

to silence on the ground that he should not be asked to incriminate himself, the presiding judge concurred and then suspended the hearing for an hour.

The incident was significant, since the doctor was an adviser to M Hervé during the key period in the 1980s when French authorities collected blood from high-risk groups, including prisoners, and then failed to sterilise it.

Giving evidence last week, M Hervé said he could not be held responsible for the failures of his department, since the "technical" decisions that led to widespread contaminations were taken by staff such as Dr Weisselberg.

Of the three ministers, who are facing manslaughter charges that could bring jail sentences of up to five years, M Hervé's defence appeared the weakest, commentators said.

But the refusal of Dr Weisselberg to give evidence yesterday leaves the former Socialist Health Minister's claims unchallenged.

Cresson faces fresh fraud claims

BY ADAM SAGE

EDITH CRESSON, the European Commissioner, was yesterday clinging to her job after an anti-fraud unit highlighted "irregularities" at her department that may lead to criminal proceedings. Insisting that she will not resign, Mme Cresson hit back with a claim that she was the victim of a German-inspired plot.

The latest row to engulf Mme Cresson came after the European Commission's anti-corruption unit, Uclaf, asked a Belgian judge to investigate allegations relating to the Leonardo education programme run by her department. The unit said it had discovered a "considerable number of irregularities" in connection with Leonardo, and had asked a judge to instigate an inquiry.

Uclaf's report prompted a swift response from the Commission, which closed down the bureau responsible for the Leonardo programme and cancelled its £500 million contract with the private firm, Agenor, which ran the scheme. Agenor has been accused of overcharging the Commission, submitting false invoices and paying private "consultants" £2,000 a day.

Mme Cresson is under growing pressure to step down, with at least 11 of her fellow commissioners reportedly determined to force her out of office.

Last month Mme Cresson was at the centre of the debate that led the European Parliament to establish its anti-fraud committee, which reports next month. Mme Cresson was accused of employing friends in highly paid jobs in or connected to her department. She retorted that she had employed her friends "because they are good".

Yesterday French newspapers gave prominence to her claim that Bonn was orchestrating a plot to oust her from Brussels as part of its campaign to win a reduction in its budgetary contribution.



Cresson says she has done nothing wrong



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Why good food is crucial



Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on diseases of the large bowel; firm handshakes and arthritis; research into Alzheimer's; thyroid trouble and dementia; and the laws covering post mortems

Diverticulosis and diverticulitis are common diseases but, as they afflict the large bowel, they are rarely talked about and the public knows little about them. When a famous actor collapsed with severe abdominal pain and a temperature at the Cannes Film Festival, it was rumoured that he had diverticulitis, but for all the term meant to the film buffs in the bars, they might just as well have been told that he was suffering from strongyloidiasis.

A diverticulum (diverticula when plural) is a small pouch-shaped protrusion of the intestinal lining which pushes through the outer muscular wall of the colon, the large bowel, forming a sac. When several diverticula are affecting the colon, the condition is known as diverticulosis, and when the tissue around the diverticulum becomes inflamed, as diverticulitis.

Long before the Cannes star collapsed he will have suffered from inoperable abdominal pain, colic, wind and intermittent diarrhoea. Many patients with undiagnosed bowel symptoms are later found to have diverticulosis, which is often complicated by occasional attacks of mild diverticulitis. When debris and intestinal secretions collect for any length of time in the diverticulum, their presence causes

inflammation and symptoms not dissimilar to those of appendicitis, but not of course necessarily in the area over the appendix. As with appendicitis, the patient feels unwell, there is tenderness when the abdomen is pressed, pain, and a temperature.

The diagnosis of diverticulitis may be obvious when it is already known that the patient suffers from diverticulosis and it has been confirmed by barium X-ray or colonoscopy.

Colonoscopy is particularly useful when there is a need to find a source of bleeding within the colon: even diverticulosis may be complicated by bleeding. It is always important to be certain that the patient isn't in fact suffering from appendicitis, an abscess, or colonic cancer. Doctors have puzzled for many years as to why in the UK more than half the population over 70 have diverticula, whereas even in extreme old age it is rarely seen in Africans. The accepted explanation is that the difference is related to diet, as the Africans' traditional food contains a much higher proportion of fibre than does the European. A large amount of fibre, such as is provided by porridge, breakfast cereals, beans and peas, keeps the walls of the colon apart when the gut is contracting and prevents the pressure rising. If the pressure does rise, the wall of the



Emperor Akihito greets the Queen: a firm handshake, an attribute of many in public life, can later cause problems

gut may give way at its weak points, in particular where the small arteries supplying it go through the muscle layer. It is at these points that the characteristic diverticular sacs, with their narrow openings, form.

Diet is all-important in preventing diverticulitis and in controlling its symptoms. In patients suffering symptoms of diverticulosis, a high-fibre diet is usually recommended initially. However, some patients can be made worse by this, and if this does happen it may be necessary for them to return to a diet that is more refined and with less roughage. Selecting the correct food may be a matter of trial and error.

Mild degrees of diverticulitis are treated with a light, mainly liquid diet and antibiotics. Even after the symptoms have subsided, the patient is advised to stay on a light diet for a few days and should not return to a high-fibre one for several weeks. Severe degrees of diverticulitis require hospital admission, drip-feeding and heavy doses of antibiotics. If despite this, the patient continues to get worse, emergency surgery may be necessary.

● **Further information:** British Digestive Foundation, P.O. Box 251, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 6HG. Please enclose SAE.

Long-term legacy of giving a strong handshake

THE hail-fellow-well-met person who looks you straight in the eye as he crushes your hand with a vigorous shake may get his comeuppance in later life. This apparently honest bonhomie may make such people ideally suited to a life in politics, evangelism or salesmanship but from middle age onwards they may suffer stiff, painful hand joints from osteoarthritis. The *Journal of Arthritis and Rheumatism* has recently reported on a study of osteoarthritis in Framingham, a small town in Massachusetts, where the population has been kept under regular review for more than a generation. The firm hand-shakers of 40 years ago now have an increased incidence of arthritic joints.

Osteoarthritis becomes progressively more common with advancing age, and develops earlier in men than in women, but symptoms of it are not an inevitable consequence of ageing. Research last week into back pain, which is often a result of osteoarthritis, confirmed that there is an inherited basis to some cases of osteoarthritis. It affects all vertebrate animals other than bats and sloths, and even whales and dolphins, whose weight is supported by water. Though the ordinary wear and tear of life may not be as important a factor as once believed, damage or disease to a joint and excessive or aberrant use, particularly if repetitive, such as regal hand-shaking, could be a cause of osteoarthritis.

Osteoarthritis results from a loss of cartilage at the joint surfaces and subsequent damage to the surrounding bone. In the later stages the joint may become deformed, but the initial symptoms are of pain on movement and stiffness. The stiffness is worse in the mornings after a night in bed, but it also affects people after they have been sitting for any length of time.

Alzheimer's riddle

IRIS MURDOCH was as famed for her idiosyncratic punctuation and syntax as she was for her strong dislike of being edited. The copy editor (there was only one) who was brave enough to change her prose had previously worked with me for many years. She told me about the outrage it produced at the time.

Carmen Callil, interviewed on the *Today* programme, confirmed that such was the fire this provoked that it was the first and last time it ever happened. Last year when the copy editor met Murdoch again, it was explained who she was, and the writer rewarded Callil with a sweet, uncomprehending smile.

Professor John Bayley not only earned himself widespread admiration for the way in which he cared for his late wife, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, but he also saved the State a lot of money. A survey reported in both the *British Journal of Psychiatry* and the *British Medical Journal* put the cost of caring for

each patient with Alzheimer's at between £2,000 and £4,000 a month; naturally the expense was commensurate with the severity of the disease. The medical treatment accounted for less than a third of this total, with the rest spent either on care or being an estimated figure to cover loss of earnings of patients' carers. These patients were being treated at home — the expense would have been immeasurably greater if they were admitted to hospital.

Genetic inheritance is only one of the factors that is likely to predispose people to Alzheimer's disease. Readers of *The Times* have, through a Christmas appeal, generously subscribed more than £60,000 to the Alzheimer's Research Trust. It will pay for a full PhD grant to be spent on investigating all risk factors.

There are suggestions that a diet low in fat and rich in vitamin E may have a protective role, while in women it seems that HRT could be beneficial. Keeping the mind active is important — *The Times* cross-

word will help — and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (the anti-rheumatic pills) may be helpful. Happily, there is evidence that alcohol, even if taken years earlier, may help to keep Alzheimer's at bay. However, none of these factors is all-important — it seems likely that Alzheimer's is a multifactorial disease — hence the need for more research.

Studying possible causes of Alzheimer's is running in parallel with research into its treatment. Already drugs are available that will improve memory and help some of the other early symptoms of the disease in mild to moderate cases. But as yet nothing has been found that will stop or cure the underlying causes of the disease, which result in too little acetylcholine in the brain to achieve effective contact between neurones and the adequate transmission of signals.

● **Alzheimer's Research Trust.** G.J. Livanos House, Grantham Road, Cambridge CB2 5LQ (01223 843899).



Iris Murdoch, afflicted with Alzheimer's disease, was cared for at home by her husband

Auto-immune disease that can cause dementia

HASHIMOTO'S thyroiditis is one of the auto-immune diseases that affects the thyroid gland. In patients suffering from such diseases, the body reacts to its own proteins and produces antibodies that attack tissue. Such diseases include rheumatoid arthritis and some forms of diabetes.

Patients with Hashimoto's thyroiditis develop an enlarged, smooth but painless thyroid gland which, although bigger than usual, is less active. By the time they first see their doctor, one in five is already suffering from too little thyroid and nearly all will suffer from hypothyroidism sooner or later. The disease is more common in women than in men, and most often strikes those in the 30 to 50 age group.

Hashimoto's disease often occurs in conjunction with other autoimmune diseases, but one rare and unexpected complication is encephalitis. It has recently attracted attention in the *Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry* and in the *BMJ*. The reason

for the interest is that Hashimoto's encephalitis is characterised by the same signs and symptoms as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, now often, if inaccurately, referred to as "human BSE".

In both diseases, patients become progressively demented, suffer a change of personality and develop the staggering gait so graphically illustrated by the television clip of the BSE-afflicted cow stumbling and falling in the yard. There is one essential difference: Hashimoto's encephalitis responds rapidly to high doses of steroids. Uncomplicated Hashimoto's disease is treated with lifelong thyroid replacement therapy. The patient also needs to be checked regularly to make certain that he or she is not suffering from other auto-immune diseases such as diabetes, Addison's disease (adrenal failure) or an inactive parathyroid gland. Likewise, doctors must be aware that Hashimoto's thyroiditis may very occasionally be associated with malignant changes in the thyroid.

In this and BSE, patients become more demented

THE very understandable upset of the Bristol parents who found that the hearts of their children, who died after cardiac surgery, had been retained for further examination illustrates the wide gap in understanding that often exists between doctors and patients.

It is now acknowledged that there needs to be far more open discussion with relatives, and specific consent if there is a suggestion that tissue from a

post-mortem examination should be saved. Often in the past, doctors have balked at seeking consent — not because they were being casual or unfeeling but because they have not wanted to increase the upset of people who were already distressed and sorrowing.

Regulations for retention of tissue after a post mortem are

laid down in the Coroner's Rules, as amended in 1984. In patients who have died soon after cardiac surgery, it is standard practice to retain the heart so that more detailed examination of it can be carried out than would be possible at the post mortem itself.

In many hospitals, a pathologist reviews with the cardiologists

the success or failure of each measure taken in the battle to save a life. In post mortems where the coroner is not involved, the usual practice now is for the written consent of relatives to be obtained for the retention of tissue.

This may be particularly important if there is any question of further litigation. Then the relevant tissues are available for later examination by medical representatives of litigants.

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This may be particularly important if there is any question of further litigation. Then the relevant tissues are available for later examination by medical representatives of litigants.



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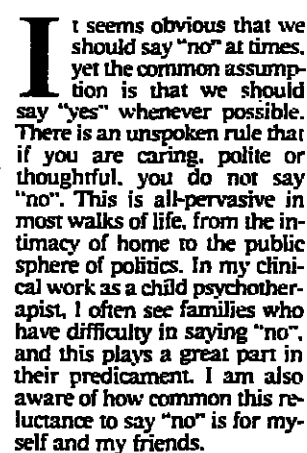
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But by saying "yes" whenever possible and not saying "no" at appropriate times, we may be robbing ourselves and our loved ones of capabilities and resources; we may be restricting ourselves by not stretching our "emotional muscles". Saying "no" does not have to be a denial or a crushing of another person; in fact it can demonstrate a belief in the strength and the abilities of others.

On the whole, adults have a greater understanding than children, and children look to their parents to make sense of the world around them. This begins in infancy, with babies needing their parents to give meaning to their feelings. As the child gets older, the parents give him a picture not only of who he and they are, but of the world at large. The healthy toddler will refer to his parent when meeting new people to see if they are safe to interact with. He will use a parent as a base from which to explore and to get feedback about his activity.

If the responses to his behaviour are consistent, he gets a clearer view — a good idea of what is allowed and what is banned, what is safe or dangerous, what is frightening or not. No parent or adult is completely consistent, but a general picture does emerge for the child.

Sanctions are important when you are trying to enforce your "no", but there is no recipe that works for everyone. If you have conviction about your stand, if you can be in tune with your child, generally an under-five will respect your word. Of course, you will need to back this up at times. There are many strategies that you can use, whether it is to reduce television time, to send your child to his room, to confiscate a favourite toy, to hold him physically when he is having a "wobbly", to refuse to take him to the park if he misbehaves. It

is not the sanction itself that will matter but what is communicated through your behaviour. Heavy-handedness usually backfires, as does losing your temper, humiliating the child and getting into a battle of wills.

It is never helpful to lose your temper — behaviour that is out of control is frightening for both parent and child. But if at times you do or say something that you regret, as all parents do, it is not the end of the world. It can let the child know that you, too, are human, not a robot or an angel. This may allow him to see himself and his passionate feelings

sen and his passionate feelings in a kinder light. If you do go "over the top", an apology can also be positive. You are showing the child that you can consider what you have done, realise that it may have been wrong, admit it and ask for forgiveness. That opens up these possibilities for him, too.

What matters is to keep your function as an adult, to feel for your child and the state he is in, and to think about what is best for both of you. You do not have to explain every reason to him; it is sufficient that you know what you are doing. Many a parent of this generation can burden a child with lectures and explanations.

Sanctions should

TWO TO FIVE

help the child to learn, and cruelty only teaches him to be nasty. Your sanction should be aimed at helping him to be more thoughtful. You are likely to find out what works best by trial and error. As long as you have regard for yourself and for your child, just the effort of trying to make things better helps. Children are deeply appreciative of people who struggle on their behalf. They know that it is often easier to give in than to strive for a better solution.

From the child's perspec-

tive, limits may be infuriating but they are also like gates, keeping things safe. And there are other good reasons for limits. There are, of course, the obvious ones of physical safety. Then there are the numerous occasions, every day, when you need to set some gentle but firm limits that are not directly linked to safety but which help the child to develop a sense of security (for instance, having to sit down to eat). For a child to feel that somebody is prepared to be firm for the sake of his safety helps to boost security.

The other important aspect of limits is that they help to develop an individual's resources. If someone else does all the work, grants you your every whim, you become weaker and increasingly unable to cope with frustration. The well-meaning parent who wishes to spare the child every pain could be robbing him of developing ways to deal with difficulties. Here there is a judgment to make about what is bearable for the child and about the difference between need and greed.

A clear example of when to say "no" to a child comes at a moment of separation. He wants to stay with you but has to be with others. One regular complaint from families is that their

child will not separate easily, he clings and whines. What do you do with a child who screams, hangs on for dear life and looks as if he will die if you leave?

How time away from the parents is presented will determine how the child experiences the separation. There is also the crucial issue, so often raised, of whether you say goodbye or attempt to disappear unnoticed.

Many adults fool themselves that young children are unaware of their surroundings—that out of sight means out of mind. Having worked with under-fives for many years, I can guarantee that this could not be farther from the truth. What is true, however, is that if children are told of an impending departure, they have a chance to object. Parents need to recognise and to accept these feelings, while sticking to their plan to leave.

To leave in a positive manner, with appropriate confidence that he is in good hands, is to reinforce the idea that he will be all right without you; that there are other people in the world who can also look after him. If you do not leave, you are, in effect, agreeing that only you can look after him; that the world at large is not safe.

Of course, the leaving has to be done thoughtfully. The length of time that he can manage without you also needs to be considered. It may be a slow process, but it has to begin if your child is to taste treats other than those you can offer. Similarly, how sleep is viewed and catered for communicates an image of what it is. If you feel that an empty bed is a treat, you are more likely to be firm with your child that he should sleep alone.

Allowing a child to be with you all night, every night, is not helpful to him. It prevents him from developing a sense of himself on his own. A child may only remember his fear at the time of going to bed, but the parent can think about it during the day. This offers an opportunity to talk about his fear and to think together of ways to tackle it before it has turned to panic.

At around the age of five, every child has to make the transition from home to school. Children in this phase have an enormous amount to master. Their response to rules, regulations and manners—all are of paramount importance. How they react to "no" will have a major impact on their capacity to settle, to make friends and to learn at school.

After they start school, children are preoccupied with rules. There is both a need and a reluctance to obey the rules. Children will ask constantly, "Am I allowed to...?", often to the irritation of their parents, who feel that they ought to know by now that, for instance, they do not need to ask to go to the toilet at home. It is as if they ask because they need to feel that they have permission, that they are observing a rule. It is a request for structure. It is also a way of making sense of the two different worlds of home and school, teasing out what they can do where. Many a mother gets called by the teacher's name and vice versa.

During the school day, children have to listen to their teachers, to conform, to observe more rules than there are at home and to fit in with the group. Teachers may be some-thing very independent and rightly proud of their achievement. If this is not recognised at home and they are treated just as they were before, they will feel as if their "growing up" still very precariously un-derminished. So they may often rebel. "Don't treat me like a baby," they may say frequently in the primary school.

to having a tantrum, from confidence to insecurity. As a parent, it is hard to get the balance right between supporting their independence and staying in touch with their needs without making them feel infantilized. Conflicts frequently arise around mealtimes, bedtime, how much television to watch, getting homework done, getting ready in the morning. At times we will need to say "no" to the child, at other times to ourselves.

As parents, we start to expect and to demand that our child should comply with requests within a limited timespan. However, children, particularly at this age, seem to have a selective view of time. When it is something that they want, the word they use is "now"; when they are asked to do something, it will be "later," which often means never. In saying "later," we are asking him to hold on to the idea, or to find ways to satisfy it themselves.

It is important that they should not wait for so long that the want disappears, or we would be dampening their zest for life. But they do need to learn to manage the space

in between. Repeated simple experiences such as this make for the necessary distance between parent and child which allows them separate lives.

Making a stand in the family for treating each other with respect, for not being consistently unpleasant or rough, gives the child the means of coping at school with difficult feelings and behavior. Saying "No, you cannot behave towards me (or towards your sister or brother) in this way" spurs them to

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find other means of dealing with frustration or upset. Making a point of keeping your self-respect, of not allowing yourself as a parent to be abused, sets an example. It shows that you believe you are good enough not to be treated badly. This helps the child to do the same. If he gets teased, left out or picked on at school, he will have a model of how not to be the victim.

Much of our difficulty in saying "no" stems from guilt. We overcompensate for the feeling that we have, in some ways, deprived our child. This is many working women's experience. Even those who are not away for longer than the

school day feel guilty, when they are at home, that their mind is on other issues — that they have to do the housework or to make phone calls.

It is hard not to fall in with the children's expectations that you should be totally available to them when you are together. This often results in the mother believing the child when he tells her that she is mean and nasty. She is then tempted to say "yes" rather than to face the child's criticisms. Similarly, fathers who work long hours and do not see much of their children tend to indulge them. Unfortunately, this is never a long-term answer to children's demands or to parents' worries.

Guilt also tends to make us feel that our children should have many material possessions. Yet this may deprive the child of a necessary experience. When children want, they feel they need. As adults, we are better able to draw a distinction. It is through our attitude that the child learns to differentiate. Without this ability, he will always be at the mercy of wants that can never all be satisfied. Having and discarding possessions easily also robs him of the feeling that anything is special.

Another benefit of not always getting what you want is the capacity to bear an empty space, a gap. If gaps are instantly filled, there is no room for creativity. By filling gaps instantly, we are agreeing with the child that not having is terrible — that he is lost without satisfaction. We are, in effect, saying that he is what he has. If a child links his importance to what he possesses, his self-image will always be at risk.

● *Saying No* by Asha Phillips is published on March 1 by Faber, £8.99. Times readers can order this title for only £7.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on (0990) 379454.

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CHANGING TIMES

TOMORROW

Teenagers: make them feel secure by being strong and more flexible

This is when parents must say "no" to themselves, to their habit of seeing the child as still a baby at home, and to recognize his progress.

Children at this age will fluctuate from autonomy to reliance, from being reasonable

Fresh veg and rotten arguments

Reason inclines me to trust ministers in this GM food fight

Yes, I would — like the Prime Minister — eat genetically modified food. No, I would not want a moratorium on the planting of GM crops, nor do I believe the evidence so far justifies fears about the health risks from GM plants. These are my prejudices. They seem to me as valid as anyone else's. And no, I'm not in receipt of a massive grant from Monsanto.

After a week spent reading every view I can find, from every scientist who has been consulted on genetically modified tomatoes, soya beans, potatoes or cheese, I can only conclude that they are as prejudiced as I am. There are those who are convinced that we have embarked on a dangerous experiment that is running out of control. There are those who find nothing so far to suggest that GM is inherently more dangerous than any other artificial forms of agriculture or animal breeding. Deciding between them seems to depend as much on personal inclination as on the facts themselves.

One response — my own prejudice — is to recoil instinctively from the notion that one isolated laboratory experiment justifies the mass hysteria that threatens to engulf the issue. Headlines about Frankenstein food, with Tony Blair's picture modified (though not, one trusts, genetically) to resemble Boris Karloff as Frankenstein's monster, seem an unhelpful way of advancing the argument. I am against extreme measures, such as banning beef on the bone because of an infinitesimal risk to the public. And I am wary of conspiracy theories which conclude that because the Government has a Sainsbury on a Cabinet committee it must be corruptly influenced in favour of the food industry.



Magnus Linklater

After reading the views of Dr Puzsai, the scientist whose work at the Rowett Institute in Aberdeen led to the debate, and the detailed response from the Health Minister involved, it seems to me that, for once, the Government is taking the sensible and cautious route, rather than being led, as so often, by public outcry. The wider reactions have come from scientists rather than politicians. One of Dr Puzsai's supporters, a scientist, said last week that the Government had sacrificed the interests of public health "at the expense of allowing biotech companies to make money", and he accused it of being "enslaved to big corporations". This is the language of paranoia rather than sensible debate.

So what does the evidence amount to? Dr Puzsai's experiment involved feeding a genetically modified potato — not one that was on sale to the public — to rats. He found that within a very short period their brains had shrunk and their immune systems deteriorated. His experiment was, however, designed to examine the procedures for testing genetically modified foods rather than the specific effects of such products. We know little about the details of Dr Puzsai's experiment because it has not yet been written up in the scientific journals, although the findings are now to be published.

Initially, the data was revealed on a *World in Action* television programme. It was this breach of protocol, that scientists should not speak to the media about unpublished research, which led to Dr Puzsai's suspension. The institute's director, Professor Philip James, still claims not to have read the full report, and is therefore unable to support or dissent from Dr Puzsai's findings. "We don't know what the results are," he said last week. "We are desperate to find out."

This seems remarkable. If the institute charged with producing a balanced assessment of the potential risks from GM food is unable to do so because one of its scientists reveals his findings on television rather than waiting for them to be properly assessed by his colleagues, what is the point of having an institute? One might as well have rival laboratories set up by Friends of the Earth and Monsanto, and let the results be judged by a TV panel.

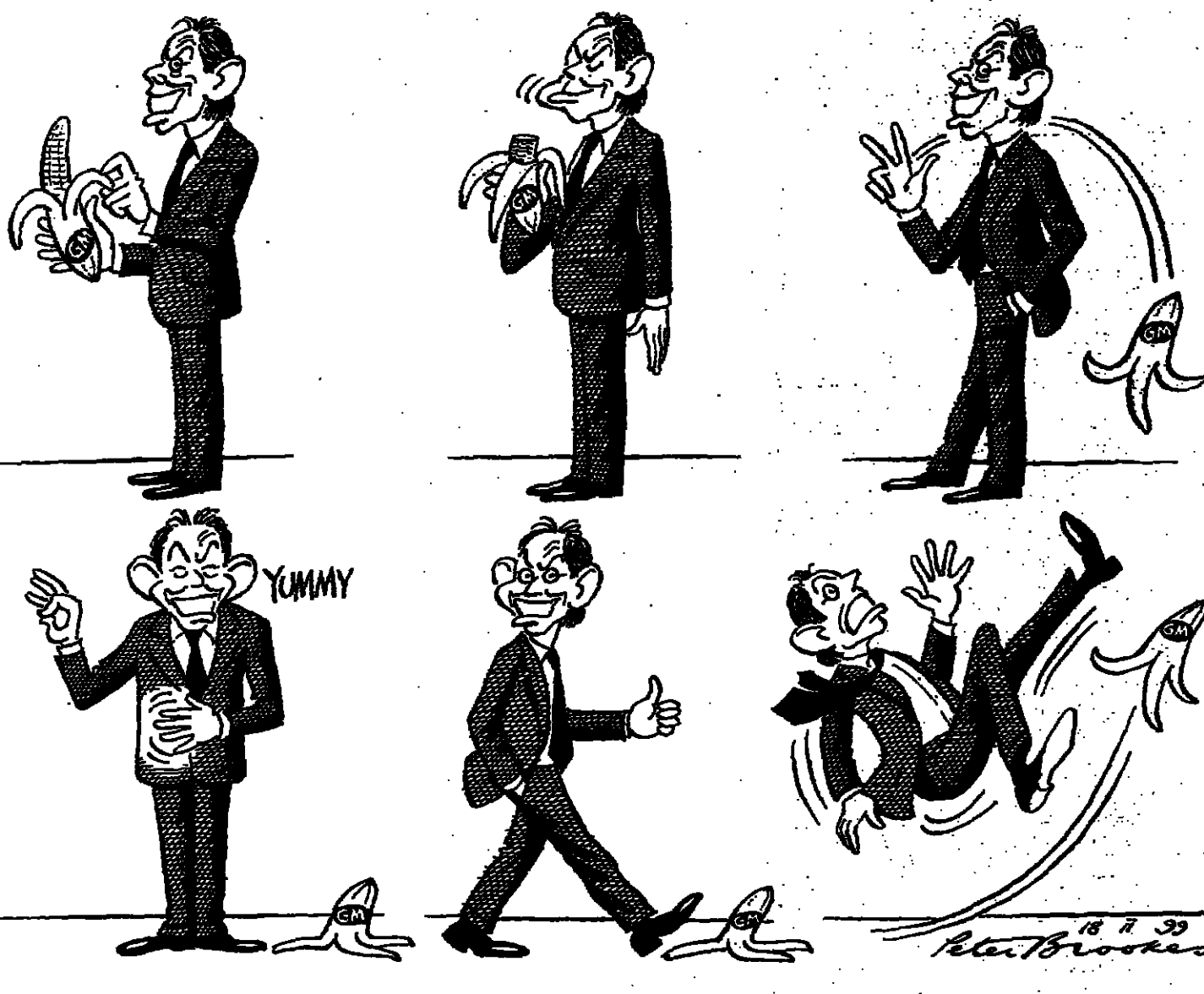
Dr Puzsai is now convinced that he is the victim of "a cover-up". He believes his findings have been suppressed by the Government and the institute. Writing to one of his supporters, he says that an audit committee, called in by the institute to vet his preliminary findings, has "blackened" his name by disputing his conclusions. He was told by Professor James that he should write up his data as scientific papers, get them approved by the institute, then submit them for publication. That would seem to be accepted practice. For Dr Puzsai, however, it was tantamount to censorship. It would, he said, have taken six to eight months, and was merely a "delaying ploy".

His strikes me as inter-parasitic. In contrast, Sam Galbraith, the Scottish Office Health Minister, accepted the audit committee's report, which included external experts and which concluded that fears about the adverse effects of GM potatoes "were unfounded". I am unclear as to what Dr Puzsai expected him to do. Would it have been more responsible for the minister to ignore the institute's own audit committee report and reveal instead the results of one unqualified experiment? And would waiting six months for a proper assessment really have exposed the public to unacceptable risk?

Dr Puzsai has thrown open the debate to the Internet. He says that 30 scientists all over the world have been asked for their views on his report, and he is confident they will back him. This seems, at best, a haphazard way of determining so serious an issue. Who chooses them? How balanced are they? What data will they have to go on? The Government's step-by-step approach seems eminently sensible.

But naturally, I am prejudiced. In favour of reason.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Hitler's long shadow

Germany's treatment of those who were Nazi slaves is still shameful, says Michael Pinto-Duschinsky

Timing is everything in diplomacy. It is one of many lessons Germany is proving slow to learn. Earlier this week the country's Culture Minister, Michael Naumann, reproved Britain for its obsession with the Second World War. The new Social Democratic Government in Bonn is anxious to escape from the long shadow cast by Hitler. But the presence of a British jury in Belarus this week reminds us that the war has still left unfinished business. Herr Naumann's boss, the Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, has attempted to close the door on the past, protesting that his country is now "normal". But his hopes risk being undermined by his Government's attitude towards victims of the war who have been forgotten too long.

The Schröder Government's treatment of those who suffered as slave labourers under the Nazis raises questions about the honesty with which Germany is prepared to confront its past. The German Government unveiled a compensation package this week which was designed, in Herr Schröder's words, "to deal with its (Germany's) history in a responsible manner". But responsible to whom?

Germany has been stung into action after the launch of a series of lawsuits by former slave labourers in the United States. There were about ten million slave labourers and some half a million are still alive. They have never received their back-pay, let alone the compensation they deserve for their systematic ill-treatment. The companies which made use of their sweat and blood, have also declined to apologise properly, denying their liability for years. These companies include some of Germany's industrial giants, household names with deep pockets but short memories. The companies' attitude compelled a coalition of Jewish and Eastern European lawyers to go to law in the United States to press their claims. The German companies responded not with grace, but pressure. They mounted a lobbying exercise on the German Chancellor to orchestrate a scheme that would protect the corporations and banks from the slave labourers' lawsuits.

The approach which has been adopted was unveiled this week. Named the Hombach Plan, after the Chancellor's minister who is the Mandelstam to Herr Schröder's Blair, it is an exercise in evasion, not probity. It is flawed in conception

and inadequate in execution, an avoidance of responsibility rather than an honest settling of accounts. The methods being used to promote the Hombach Plan show an assertiveness that is already alarming Germany's eastern neighbours. Before the plan was unveiled, German interests tried to avoid a legal reckoning by attempting to threaten the American Government. The US Under-Secretary of State, Stuart Eizenstat, visited Bonn at the end of last month for talks. The State Department was given to understand that American trade relations with Germany, and with

far as to leak a paper during Bodo Hombach's recent visit to Washington stating that it expected the US Government to "take the necessary domestic steps in order to make it possible to deal with class actions appropriately". Having tried to strong-arm the US Administration, Germany has now sought to buy off its forgotten victims with token "humanitarian" payments. The Hombach Plan involves 12 German firms which have offered to set up a joint kitty from which payments will be given to those "most in need".

But considering the number of claimants, the projected compensation fund will provide disproportionately small sums. It is even smaller than was originally expected. The firms concerned have offered \$2 billion. But the fund has been designed as a charitable trust which requires the companies to contribute only \$1.2 billion, with the balance coming in tax relief. Moreover, much of the money will be in the form of a "remembrance fund" and not direct compensation for the victims. I estimate that the fund will secure only \$1,000 per survivor. It will be even less if the rights of victims' families are taken into account.

The assault on the US Government, and the holding manoeuvre against the victims, has been complemented by a third tactical strike from Germany. This is their "history offensive". German enterprises are pouring money into specially commissioned histories of their past. Selected "independent" historians are being given pay and exclusive access to company papers. Their work has the whiff of whitewash. The truth is not served by this cosy relationship between hired historians and their paymasters.

Three months ago, five historians commissioned by Deutsche Bank used *The Times Literary Supplement* to claim that it was the Nazi State, not the Deutsche Bank, which financed the I G Farben slave

factory at Auschwitz. But the bank has now had to reveal it did.

It is still, however, trying to limit legitimate investigation of the past. Deutsche Bank's chairman, Dr Rolf Breuer, may have said that its embarrassment was "definitely not the last revelation of this kind". But what seems like an admission of new openness is undermined by the maintenance of the same old secrecy. Historians of the Holocaust who recently asked to see the incriminating credit files from the bank's Katowice branch were told that access "is given exclusively to the (bank's) historical commission".

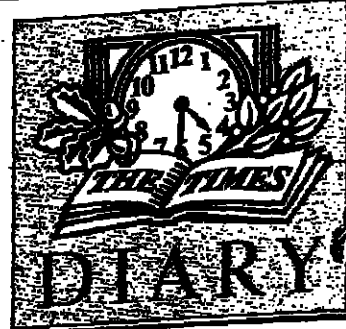
Why the reticence? Deutsche Bank has been trying to acquire the Bankers Trust. It has succeeded in obtaining a declaration from the US State Department that the proposed takeover should be considered on its merits "and not burdened by other issues". These "other issues" are, of course, Deutsche Bank's role in the construction of Auschwitz and the matters that lie hidden in its restricted archives.

There are signs that some members and advisers of the Schröder Government would like to take a moral stand, on what is pre-eminently a moral issue. But they are reluctant to confront the industrial behemoth. Some in Germany offer other pleas in mitigation. They claim that anti-Semitism in East Europe, and prejudice against East Europeans, is buried just beneath the surface of public life. They argue that such prejudices could easily re-emerge if a generous measure of compensation were agreed. But can prejudice ever be tackled by perpetuating injustice and ignorance?

If Germany is ever to be considered "normal", it must act normally. It is not "normal" to use state power to bully others into interfering with due process and the rule of law. It is not "normal" to evade legal and moral responsibilities to victims of totalitarian labour camps. It is not "normal" to shield the past from scrutiny for commercial reasons.

German ministers may regret skewed views of the war. But they should take the beam out of their country's eye before objecting to the moles in others. They should make a start now by encouraging their own countrymen to honour, in full, the debts incurred during that terrible conflict.

comment@the-times.co.uk



True Brits

NATALIE IMBRUGLIA, a frail Australian chanteuse, has landed a senior Tory in trouble with the whips. As colleagues decried the House of Lords Bill on Tuesday evening, the party's constitutional frontmen were whooping it up at the Brit Awards. Dr Liam Fox, chief Tory spokesman, was trailing round after his old friend, who won two shiny statues at the ceremony. At his side: Nigel Evans, another young funkster. After nipping into the chamber in late afternoon to mutter a few sage words on the hereditary principle, Evans and Fox nipped off to meet the rockers, missing the 9.30 vote, leaving Tony Benn to lead opposition to the Bill. The Tory effort to speed the introduction of Viscount Cranbourne's compromise of keeping 91 hereditary seats was lost. "This was all too tempting," explained Evans at the ceremony. Stephen Twigg, that diligent young Blairite, was more dutiful, jinking his Brits invitation in order to vote.

● MY SYMPATHIES to Elizabeth Hurley. The actress (below) was enjoying a sojourn in the *Four Seasons in Beverly Hills* when she was woken by cockney stinging. After complaining, the culprit was found to be Vincent Jones (below), the psychotic film manager now trying to become a god of the silver screen.



What a blow

A SEXUAL action perfected by Monica Lewinsky lost Julian Barnes his job. The author has disclosed to me that when he tilled for the *Oxford English Dictionary* in the early 1970s he suggested a colloquial definition of oral sex.

This was blown out by his editor ("far too smutty"). "It was as popular a term then as now," says Barnes. Robert Burchfield, then editor, is regretful: "I was going through a puritanical stage." Barnes, furious, stalked out; fed up with fact, he tried fiction.

● KATE MOSS can read. The model has started with fairytales, which helped her through what the small prints term her "drunk and drugs hell" (an odd phrase: the hell probably seemed like heaven at the time). She was given C.S. Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* by Marianne Faithfull. "After the whole heavy day, to get into bed and read these books. It was such a treat," she says. Speaking properly is lesson two.

'IT MUST HAVE BEEN A GREEK EMBASSY.'



Caravan lark

CARAVANS have rarely quickened the dual pulse, but this sorry lapse is to be corrected by the Duke of Northumberland. The trust snatcher wants to build a pleasing 12-acre caravan park in Beadnell, a snooty coastal village in the county. The prospect has led 300 grumbling wretches to sign a petition. "We don't mind quality tourism, but caravans? squeals one. If it's good enough for the duke."

● ALAN MILBURN, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is on crutches, having damaged his ankle ligaments — after falling downstairs. I am assured he had only drunk tea.

Euro contest

JESSICA DOUGLAS-HOME has hired a disc jockey to referee a debate on EMU in a Gloucestershire castle. The widow of the former Editor of this parish is bringing Rodney Leach, her hubbie and a Jardine Matheson director, head-to-head with Win Bischoff, chairman of Schroders. "Apparently," says Jessica "the DJ also has strong views, so it could be lively."

JASPER GERARD

'Why don't you do Danny Baker or Vanessa Feltz semi-clad on scrambler bikes, chasing bouncing inflatable sheep?'

Andrew Yates

Had Robin Page, the presenter of *One Man and His Dog*, been wily enough, he could have saved his programme, which the BBC has decided to switch off after 23 years. Had he, for example, suggested sacrificing his own position for someone younger, more larky and less bucolic, he would have endeared himself to the commissioning editors.

He should have proposed getting rid of the sheepdogs too: "Bring in something zippier, more racy, you know the sort of thing," he might have said. "And you don't want sheep any more — replace them with something zany to grab young viewers. Why don't you do Danny Baker or Dale Winton or even Vanessa Feltz semi-clad on scrambler bikes, chasing bouncing inflatable sheep? Squeeze it in after *Noel's House Party* on Saturday nights and you've got a winner."

The editors would have removed their coloured-frame specs, chewed over the notion of Dale, Danny and Vanessa, then pronounced: "You've got something here. Let's develop it."

They would have been wrong, just as they are wrong to drop *One Man and His Dog*. They are jettisoning a programme with a following not only among the elasticated-waistband generation but also among students and the elusive urban youth market that the BBC so covets.

One Man and His Dog has become visual wallpaper in university campuses and bedsits in the same manner as the Teletubbies, which have earned themselves cult status. Students who have been up all night watching Tinky Winky, Dipsy, Laa Laa and Po in the morning as they come down from a night of excess. A programme for two-year-olds is restful to their

addled brains and many believe that trips through Teletubbyland are drug-induced. Noo-Noo, the tubbies' vacuum cleaner, is seen as a great inhaler and a large letter E once fell from the sky to crown Dipsy.

It is difficult to make the case for Robin Page as a drug icon with his mutton-chop whiskers. But the simplicity of the programme, its pastoral scenes and its unchanging format confer on it the status of a student classic — television viewing where you don't have to think.

There are just three colours involved: the green of the pastures, and the black and white of the dogs and their sheep — unless you include the purple cheeks of the presenter and his costars. Like snooker, which is also boosted by student view-

ing, *One Man and His Dog* can be watched with the volume turned down and the rock music at full blast. It can be no coincidence that the show's high point with eight million viewers was when it ran on from *Pot Black*, before the BBC moved it to a dead slot on a weekend afternoon.

Mr Page is not yet the cult figure that the programme's first presenter, Phil Drabble, became, but he has been at the job for only four years as opposed to Drabble's 14. And from Lowther in the Lakes down to Truro, the stocky farmer is greeted by locals with the enthusiasm that Labour politicians reserve for pop stars at the Brit Awards.

If the BBC had been less impetuous in its determination to win over the youth market by

getting rid of *One Man and His Dog*, it would have allowed Mr Page's fan club to burgeon in the very sector it is chasing. The BBC is misguided if it thinks the programme is not "relevant". To the urban youth agitating for rights to the countryside, this series offers a virtual right to roam with fabulous scenery and stereotypical cloth-capped countryfolk. And he doesn't have to stir from his sofa.

Mr Page is urging viewers to write to the BBC and call for the decision to see off his programme to be reversed. He says the corporation's executives are arrogant, stupid and out of touch. "They don't seem to have any concept of anything outside London. They are obsessed with things that are supposed to be trendy."

He has a point. Although *One Man and His Dog* could hardly

be described as trendy, it brings alive the issue of the moment — the environment. And the views of those on the programme, though expressed with the eloquence of men accustomed to honing their conversation with colliers, are paramount in the debate about the future of the countryside — even if they are diametrically opposed to the views commonly expressed by BBC executives.

Dale, Danny or Vanessa may well conform to the Television Centre model of presenter chic. But they lack what the young respect — authenticity. Rather than the genetically modified presenters favoured by the menopausal men in suits, why can't we have organic entertainment? Why should we put up with plastic when we can have pure, if not new, wool?

andrew.yates@the-times.co.uk

PRIDE AND PRO...



THE KURDISH WAY

Echoes from the violent past of a lost nation

The killings in Berlin, the storming of embassies and the running battles with police by Kurds in 20 cities across Europe are the worst street violence seen in Western capitals since the mass demonstrations against the Vietnam War. To most people they come as a shock. The fanaticism of teenagers prepared to set themselves alight suggests that even those Kurds who have lived long in the West still carry a fierce resentment that is almost stronger among the young than among those who left their homeland. There is also amazement that any single terrorist leader can command such blind following — and one that has already cost the lives of those who tried, foolishly, to storm the Israeli Consulate in the German capital.

What the uprising has also revealed, however, is widespread uncertainty about the history and aspirations of the Kurds. This ancient nation, now numbering some 20 million people, has never had a settled homeland of its own. A people is usually identified with a place, which in turn sets a framework for its history. The Kurds are spread over at least four countries of the Middle East, have no capital or government and do not even have a religious or symbolic focus that often holds together other diasporas.

For centuries they were noted mainly as mountain warriors and mercenaries, who lived on the edges of the Ottoman, Persian and Russian empires. Despite extended family ties and a strict code of tribal honour, they were notoriously quarrelsome: feuds often divided Kurdish communities with long-lasting consequences. Kurdish nationalism, a response largely to the formation of nation-states elsewhere, was not helped by this tradition. The Kurds, doughty fighters in the First World War, believed that they were promised autonomy by Woodrow Wilson. But the victors owed them nothing; and their dispersal left them at the mercy of the

powers jostling for control of the strategic mountain passes and the oil in Iraq. By 1923, Western attitudes to Atatürk's Turkish Republic had changed; the promises of the Treaty of Sèvres were forgotten.

The Kurdish sense of betrayal remained, however. Those Kurds incorporated in the new republic felt an injustice that was denied any expression. Atatürk, terrified that his fissiparous new nation would fall apart if the many ethnic groups of the old empire demanded special consideration, insisted that all were equal citizens of the new Turkey. Since the Second World War, this Kemalist legacy has hardened into a dogma. It has become the main stumbling block to a political accommodation with Turkey's 13 million Kurds.

Moderate Kurds have found every avenue for dialogue blocked. Successive Turkish governments have been brutally unfair in denying a people even the use of its own language. The dogmatic insistence on the unitary state neither fits modern conditions nor today's conventions on human and minority rights, as some Turkish politicians are at last beginning to understand. The question Kurds must therefore ask is whether they can still seek a civilised future in Turkey, or whether they should instead set their political sights on consolidating a tiny homeland in the safe haven of northern Iraq.

For the foreseeable future, Turkey must remain the only reasonable option. Northern Iraq is hardly viable as an independent state, as any government in Baghdad would try to crush it. Iran, equally, is unlikely to grant its 4.8 million Kurds meaningful autonomy. Turkey, aspiring to join the European Union, is at least a democracy and one amenable to Western opinion. The West must now insist that only real devolution will prevent a new cycle of violence and terrorism. A Turkey that agreed to such a change would be one in which Kurds could seek a future.

DRESS TO THE LEFT

An army is as strong as the political will behind it

Yesterday General Sir Roger Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff and head of the British Army, addressed the Royal United Services Institute on the Army's present and future. His upbeat message was neatly tailored to his elected masters' political sensitivities. The Strategic Defence Review has put the Army on a firm footing; waste is being cut; joint training with the other Services is proceeding apace; procurement programmes are on track. The Army is to be more representative, will base advancement on equal opportunities and merit, and adjust to domestic and European legislation on youth employment and working hours. So far, so New Labour; and entirely appropriate in a professional armed force adjusting to the cut of its political cloth.

True, certain problems will endure. The Army is still 5,000 under strength, while the putative commitment to Kosovo means that 41 per cent of it will be preparing for, conducting or winding down from operations — overstretch in anyone's language. At the same time, the world's major armed forces have to allocate most of their appropriation budgets and training time to retaining a war-fighting capability they will use more rarely, and which is therefore increasingly difficult to justify. If all troops do is peacekeeping, why equip them for anything else?

Sir Roger emphasised that Britain, too, must be able to fight a high-intensity war. He was right. Increasing global instability makes all the more important a skill which, once lost, is unlikely to be regained. Yet he was also implicitly highlighting a future difficulty. The defence budget is

unlikely to rise. Indeed, it will be hard to maintain its present share in the face of this Government's preoccupation with social issues, and the visceral dislike much of its constituency feels for the Armed Forces. Yet retaining that capability will be increasingly expensive, as the shelf-life of each technological innovation shortens and the costs of research and development soar — magnified by the Chancellor's beloved budgetary tampering.

The focus of the generally successful Strategic Defence Review was increasing Britain's rapid response capability. But the projection of force is not simply a function of capability; it is primarily a function of political will. There is little purpose in possessing a Rapid Reaction Force if the Government is unwilling to react. Soon this Government will face the first real test of whether it possesses that will.

The threat of force has driven Kosovo's belligerents to the negotiating table at Rambouillet, and kept them there. It is also the stick to be waved should they fail to sign up to the Contact Group plan by the Saturday deadline. If they sign, 8,000 British troops will be deployed. If the parties prove intractable, the Government says it will use air power to coerce compliance — a tool which even the prospective targets know reflects a lack of will, not the presence of it. Any attempt to move the Saturday deadline, or to have on the issue of deploying a ground force, will demonstrate that neither Nato nor this Government is to be taken seriously. The Review means that the Armed Forces are ready for the new millennium. The Government has yet to prove likewise.

PRIDE AND PROMISE

Let ministers eat cheese for their country

The boundaries of Britain's regions have been chopping and changing ever since King Alfred burnt his cakes. Where people once paid homage to the rulers of Mercia, Wessex and Deira, they now watch programmes pumped out by the empires of Carlton, Granada, Meridian and Westcountry. Where men and women once belonged to the local hundred, they now support a distant football team. Yet in this homogenised society, the spirit of regionalism is slowly being rejuvenated on our plates and in our glasses.

The plodding, formulaic reorganisation of local government was reflected by the rise of plastic, processed slabs, passed off as cheese. Burke's little platoons and Britain's cheese platters suffered the same fate, harmonised by Whitehall's heavy hand. Bakewell's tarts, Cumberland's sausages and Cornwall's pasties began to emanate from industrial estates around London. Imported beers were refreshing parts of the country that only local brews had reached.

Now the high calorie cavalry has arrived. Yesterday the Government published a map of Britain, showing the deployment of scores of cheeses, amassed and ready for action. Tony Blair might fear the preponderance of blue — Shropshire, Stilton, Wensleydale, Buxton — only offset by Traditional Red Leicester, Red Windsor and a little-known brand called Ashdown Foresters. Yet this plucky group, the Few of

the cheese board, have a noble cause — to restore the variety of British cheese on the nation's and foreigners' palates.

Their allies are local brewers. Regional brewers, breaking out from a defensive laager, have put up a biter resistance to the onslaught of mass-marketed beers. Sounding like the codenames of special agents — Old Speckled Hen in Abingdon, Tiger in Leicester, Double Dragon in Wales — these beers are infusing national culture. Even down in the Rover's Return, regulars can enjoy a pint of the local Newton and Ridley.

This army's greatest enemy does not lurk underneath the golden arches, but in tandoori restaurants. This is the ubiquitous chicken tikka masala — CFM to its fans, who have turned this English curry into Britain's most popular dish. The roll-call of victims of the Battle of Masala was long and horrendous: Aylesbury duck, Dover sole, Sussex pond were all turned into mincemeat. Others, like Lancashire hotpot and Welsh rarebit, were severely battered, and now recuperate in London's gentlemen's clubs.

The Prime Minister, a passionate advocate of regional identity, should now do his bit and eat for victory. For the man who is giving London a mayor and has set up a Scottish Parliament, there is an obvious choice of bitter and cheese filling for beer and sandwiches at No 10: London Pride and Celtic Promise.

Hague's quest for 'minority' voters

From Mr Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)

Sir, In his article, "Try Enfield, Mr Hague, not Texas" (February 12), Tim Hames attacks William Hague's defence of marriage as a vote-loser. This simply ignores the facts.

According to figures provided by the House of Commons Library, a child born ten years ago to a married couple has an 81 per cent chance of its parents still being married today. In contrast, such a child born to co-habitees, who did not subsequently marry, has an 85 per cent chance that its parents have already split. Yet the pivot of the speech by Mr Portillo at the 1997 party conference, which Mr Hames applauds, was that cohabitation should be treated as equivalent to marriage.

Of course, libertarians like Mr Hames could sweep aside on electoral grounds the large body of evidence that children do best when raised by married couples in terms of performance at school and at work and in keeping out of crime — after all, children don't have votes. What cannot be ignored, however, is the spiralling economic cost of family breakdown. For all the efforts of Mr Blair's Government, three fifths of single-parent families are wholly or mainly dependent on the State.

As divorce and illegitimacy increase, so the burden on the State increases. How long can any country remain healthy if an ever-increasing proportion of its children are reared in dependency?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BRAZIER,
House of Commons.
February 14.

From Dr Aidan Rankin

Sir, What Mr Hames calls "social pluralism" has brought poverty (emotional and material) to many children who grow up in broken homes. It has increased welfare spending, as the social services take the place of the extended family.

Far from liberating individuals, the permissive society has created new insecurities and constraints. Compassionate Conservatives should note that family and community breakdown have affected disproportionately our poorest citizens. The traditions of self-help, which gave character and hope to working-class communities, have been undermined by social engineers from more privileged backgrounds.

Equally questionable is Mr Hames's belief that a vast new middle class has been liberated and liberalised by access to higher education. I find a far greater level of independent thought amongst friends who have never attended university. Those who have seem to feel duty-bound to adopt "correct" opinions on radical feminism, abortion, gay rights and equal opportunities. This cult of correctness is surely more dangerous to personal freedom than old-fashioned prejudice.

Most of the electorate is ageing, non-metropolitan, unimpressed by fashion and suspicious of trendy social theories. It is with them that the Conservative Party should reconnect. In so doing it would connect more effectively with ethnic minorities, too, for I believe it is within black and Asian communities that ideas of family and personal responsibility survive.

Yours faithfully,
AIDAN RANKIN,
Flat K, Guildford Court,
51 Guildford Street, WC1N 1ES.
aidan@tdiron.co.uk
February 15.

From Mr Alan Clark, MP for Kensington and Chelsea (Conservative)

Sir, Short of recommending the legalisation of cannabis and the unfortunate Mr Portillo be rebranded as "Mike", the advice offered the Tory party by Tim Hames contained practically every modish cliché that has been around since the mid-Eighties.

The kindest word for Mr Hames's electoral arithmetic is "revisionist". Even supposing that "minorities" do comprise one third of the electorate (itself a highly dubious, and unsupported, statistic), and that every single mother, homosexual and black man were persuaded to vote Conservative (a pretty far-reaching assumption), this would still leave us in a minority at the polling booth of two to one.

Yours etc,
ALAN CLARK,
House of Commons.
February 14.

Over but not out

From Mr Alan J. Moore

Sir, I fear that those who state that Morse has now ceased to have relevance as a means of communication are a little premature in their pronouncements (letters, February 12).

I seem to recall that Morse was used in an emergency situation in at least one of the *Star Trek* episodes; the exact date escapes me, but it was/will be some time in the 23rd century.

Yours, but with no connection,
ALAN MOORE,
Acorn Cottage,
Ansty, Salisbury,
Wiltshire SP3 5QB.
February 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Britain's 'dated view' of Germany

From Mr Edmund Wilson

Sir, The German Culture Minister, Michael Naumann, who criticised the attitude of Britain to his country (report, February 15), was surely echoing the views of many Britons living in continental Europe.

I am old enough to remember the flames as Liverpool burnt in the Blitz and the intense hatred we were all rightly encouraged to feel towards Mr Hitler and his gang. My father's generation fought valiantly to erase Nazism from the face of Europe. Herr Lafontaine and his generation have striven as valiantly in their own country to stamp out what was left of it in the years since the war.

Germans now have every reason to feel hurt and indignant at the glories of the popular press in Britain and have earned the right to say so. I have lived and worked in Switzerland, together with English, French, Germans and Italians, for 30 years and am ashamed that, alone among these nationalities, my own is still fanning the flames of national hatred.

Britons should wake up to realise that their material, social, cultural and democratic values are closer to those of modern Germany than to any other country in the world.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND WILSON,
12 Chemin du Marais,
1297 Rounez, Vaud, Switzerland.
February 15.

From Mr David Taylor

Sir, While the comments of Herr Naumann may cause some resentment in this country, it is, sadly, something that needed to be said.

Nobody now involved in politics in Germany took part in the Second World War and most of them were not even born in 1939. Furthermore, no country could have done more to redeem the shame of its past than Germany. It is now a respectable, prosperous nation that deserves the respect of us all.

The comments by some tabloid newspapers, political commentators, MPs and journalists are not only disgraceful but positively nauseating, and attempts by some irresponsible newspapers to associate the Nazi regime with present-day German foot-

ball teams should surely be illegal.

I trust that Herr Naumann's comments will not go unnoticed and there will be no repeat of some of the nationalistic claptrap which I believe does nothing but stir up hatred towards a friendly country.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TAYLOR,
20 Chestow Drive,
Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 5NB.
dtaylor65@aol.com
February 15.

From Mr Alex Harrison

Sir, Hardly a night passes without German television showing a programme about Hitler, the war, or the consequences.

There have been series on *Hitlers Helfer* (Goebbels, Hess, etc), *Hitlers Krieger* (Rommel, Keitel, etc), *Soldaten für Hitler* (the Wehrmacht) and even their latest series on 100 years of Germany history seems mostly about the Nazis. There have been many other programmes about the period.

The Germans' wish to draw a line under the past may seem not so much from hearing about the war from other people but from themselves.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX HARRISON,
205 Newton Road,
Bedworth, Warwickshire CV12 8QQ.
February 15.

From Mrs Evelyn Hornig

Sir, Germany's Culture Minister has come to terms with his country's past. For many of us it has been more difficult.

My mother, now 89, has never come to terms with losing her mother in the most dreadful conditions in Auschwitz. My brother and I grew up without grandparents and with virtually no extended family, or the security that brings.

We are still living with the repercussions of the war, however much Mr Naumann would like us to forget it.

Yours faithfully,
EVELYN HORNIG,
171 Hampstead Way,
Hampstead Garden Suburb,
London NW11 7YA.
February 15.

Management of failed schools

From the Chairman of CIBT Education Services

Sir, As you report today, the Centre for British Teachers (CIBT) was one of the three private companies shortlisted to manage the Kings' Manor School in Guildford. It was not chosen. Proud as I am of our organisation, it is difficult to blame the selection panel.

Like 3E's Enterprises, who were selected for the project, CIBT is a charity, whose surplus, if any, are used for educational development projects. We therefore avoided the objection that we would run the school for private profit. But I would be the first to admit that CIBT's proposals were not really compliant with the terms of the competition.

As a former secondary head, I know that any school risks failure without a clear chain of authority and responsibility for decision-making. That chain at Kings' Manor is split and will not clearly be in the hands of the chosen organisation. Even the DfEE seems uncertain whether the plan is

for a management contract or a consultancy. What is clear is that the private company will carry the can if the project fails.

Again, this uncertainty is understandable. Balancing political, managerial, financial, parental and local considerations is never easy and no one can run an effective school without the full-hearted support of its teachers. But if the Government is going further down the road of private involvement in failing schools, as it seems, then these are the issues that need to be addressed.

We shall hope to take part in any new development, but one of the advantages of running an organisation like CIBT, with no shareholders to satisfy, is that, if the King is somewhat underdressed, we are at liberty to say so.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STUART,
Chairman,
CIBT Education Services,
1 The Chambers,
East Street, Reading RG1 4JD.
February 9.

Minimum Wage Act

From the Assistant Director of Community Service Volunteers

Sir, Like the Reverend David Weekes (letter, February 5), CSV has lobbied the Government to make sure that the National Minimum Wage Act does not threaten the work of volunteers. Our understanding of the Act is different from his. Following discussions with CSV and others, the Government passed an amendment giving volunteers exemption from the provisions of the Act.

Importantly, it recognises the need for full-time volunteers to be provided with accommodation, food and reasonable expenses. Subsidised payments are acceptable provided that volunteers have been placed "by a charity" and that they volunteer with "a charity, voluntary organisation,

associated fund-raising body, or statutory body".

Sensibly, the main proviso is that they give their time freely and are not bound by a contract. One of the special characteristics of volunteers is their freedom to give their time to help others and, conversely, to stop at any time if they so wish.

Voluntary and statutory organisations have a responsibility to ensure that they treat volunteers properly and fairly. The National Minimum Wage Act seems to provide adequate provision for full and part-time volunteers whilst seeking to protect those who may otherwise be exploited.

Yours faithfully,
REBECCA RENDLE,
Assistant Director,
CSV (Community Service Volunteers),
237 Pentonville Road, N1 9NU.
February 6.

Zimbabwe in ruins

From Mr Barrie Milnes

Sir, In the light of the current fashion for ostentatious displays of remorse for past transgressions, real or imagined, I have been expecting some sign of regret from those people — they know who they are — who strived so assiduously in pursuit of policies that led inexorably to the destruction of civilised, responsible rule in that wonderful country, formerly called Rhodesia but now, appropriately, named after a pile of ruins (leading article, February 9; letter, February 11).

So far, nothing. One must conclude that the proponents of one man, one vote, one time, are satisfied with the results of their endeavours.

Yours faithfully,
BARRIE MILNES,
19 Stannore Court,
Canterbury, Kent CT1 3DS.
February 13.

Brit-spotting

From Mr Simon Cave

Sir, In her account of her son's purchase in Poland of half-a-dozen roses (letter, February 6; see also letters, February 13), Mrs Tuliola Tybulewicz gives us only half the story.

What did he do next — carry the roses with blooms upmost, which would certainly have continued to brand him an Englishman? Or did he carry them Polish-fashion — ie, upside down, as in many Eastern European countries, with the blooms hanging down?

Yours etc,
SIMON CAVE,
Watergate, 34 Ham Common,
Richmond, Surrey TW10 7JG.
February 7.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Call for inquiry on Gulf War illness

From Colonel T. H. English, Controller Welfare, The Royal British Legion, and others

Sir, Negative publicity following the publication in January of the initial findings of two medical studies that have discounted the existence of Gulf War syndrome is causing alarm among veterans and serious concern for The Royal British Legion and the Gulf War parliamentary group.

Our fear is that negative publicity is masking what we believe to be the true significance of the findings, which show that Gulf veterans are suffering from similar complaints to their counterparts in other conflicts, but they are affected significantly more often by disorders of unknown cause.

The Legion is still waiting for a response from the Prime Minister to its demand for a public inquiry into Gulf War illnesses, and the need for one is ever more urgent in the light of the results of the medical studies announced by Professor Simon Wessely of King's College London and the Ministry of Defence's own medical assessment programme.

The Legion and the Gulf War group have always understood that an independent inquiry was needed to show why those who served in the Gulf are more unwell than personnel with similar symptoms who served in other areas, and if the substances to which they were uniquely exposed have had a direct bearing on their illnesses. We have always been open-minded about the underlying causes of the many illnesses reported, and share the veterans' grave concerns that publicity about the absence of a syndrome could obscure the full extent and seriousness of their ill-health.

The country owes assurances to the veterans, and to those who may be called upon to serve in the future, that their health will be safeguarded and that the Ministry of Defence will look after them when they are injured or unwell because of their service.

The time for decisive action is now. For many it is already too late.

Yours sincerely,
TERRY ENGLISH,
Controller Welfare,
The Royal British Legion,
BURNHAM,
MAR,
MICHAEL MATES,
MORRIS OF MANCHESTER,
PAUL TYLER,
The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5JY.
February 17.

False impressions

From Mr H. T. Fleming

Sir, *The Vanessa Show* has been criticised for having "fake guests" (letters, February 13).

Why all the fuss? For years we have been subjected to fake laughter in our television shows — to my mind a much more odious procedure.

Yours faithfully,
H. T. FLEMING,
Highways,
13 Cooper Crescent, Enniskillen,
Co Fermanagh BT74 6DQ.
February 15.

From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, Some three years ago, in company with colleagues from the Campaign for Courtesy, I took part in a television talk show. Everything seemed authentic enough: the studios at Wembley, the set, technicians and cameramen. I had no reason to be suspicious of the researcher to whom I had spoken on the telephone.

But now my confidence is shaken. How can I be sure that the charming hostess of the programme was a lady called Esther Rantzen and not an impostor culled from a casting directory? I shall not rest until my doubts are dispelled.

Yours truly,
EDWARD THOMAS,
Flat 4, 21 Jevington Gardens,
Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4HR.
February 12.

Soothing tones

From Mr Charles Hennessy

Sir, How can it be that, when I telephone a company, whatever its line of business or location, after negotiating the usual irritating layers of recorded voices I invariably end up being placated by the same nice lady in Glasgow?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HENNESSY,
Flat 29,
147 Cromwell Road, SW7 4DW.
February 17.

Token gesture

From Miss Lizzie Broughton

Sir, I saw Mr Bailey's letter in *The Times* today. On Sunday my mother made ME go round all the tables and bins in the café at the Science Museum to look for Free Books for Schools tokens.

They were not even for my school, but the school where she teaches.

Yours faithfully,
LIZZIE BROUGHTON (aged 10),
27 Walpole Road,
Twickenham TW2 5SN.
February 16.

هنا من الفصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 17: Mr Justice Jackson was received by the Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

His Excellency Mr Roy Warren Blackbeard was received in audience by the Queen today and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for Botswana in London.

Mrs Blackbeard was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Christopher Hunt (Deputy Under Secretary and Chief Clerk, Foreign and Commonwealth Office) was present.

The following were received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Sir Ivan Callan (Malawi), Mr Peter Ford (Bahrain).

Lady Callan and Mrs Layden were also received by the Queen.

Mr Peter Smith was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor to the Cayman Islands.

Mrs Smith was also received by the Queen.

By command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Maritime) and the Diplomatic Corps called upon His Excellency Mr Murad Charief, St George's House, 14-17 Wells Street, London W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador of Turkmenistan.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 17: The Duke of Edinburgh, President of The Royal Mint Advisory Committee, this morning received Mr Roger de L. Holmes and Mr Graham Dyer at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron of the Institute of Management, later received Sir Anthony Gill, Sir Anthony Cleaver and Miss Mary Chapman at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Institute of Management, later received Mr David H. Adams, Mr Phil Dunnington, Mr Terry McCoy and Mr Victor Mardones at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, President and Honorary Life Fellow of The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, this afternoon chaired The President's Forum at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, this evening attended The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charter Members Dinner at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, this evening attended The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charter Members Dinner at St James's Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Lieutenant-Colonel H.R.A. Stretcher at the Funeral Service for Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Radice which was held at All Saints Church, Hewlett Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire today.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 17: Colonel Nicholas Smith today held the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Own Royal Irish, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 17: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales's Foundation of Architecture and the Urban Environment, this morning addressed the Housing Corporation's Annual conference Building a Better Future at the Stakis Metropole Hotel, Brighton, East Sussex.

His Royal Highness later visited the West Pier in Brighton, where he received a briefing on the planned restoration.

The Prince of Wales then visited a scheme to house homeless people as part of the Housing Corporation's Rough Sleepers Initiative at 5 College Road, Brighton.

His Royal Highness afterwards visited St Peter's Church.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 17: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, this evening attended the Award's Friends' Reception at Buckingham Palace followed by the Award's annual Charter Member Dinner at St James's Palace.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in audience.

February 17: The Princess Royal, this morning visited Bakewell, Derbyshire to view various aspects of The Bakewell Project - a scheme to secure the future of Bakewell through important economic, social, business, support and training needs of the community - and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Barber).

His Royal Highness subsequently visited Royal Crown Derby to open their new Visitor Centre at Junction Road, Derby, and was received by Lieutenant Commander Martin Boissier, Royal Navy (Vice Lord-Lieutenant).

The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, this afternoon attended Derby Bureau's 60th Anniversary Celebration to open their new premises at Progressive Building, Stewell Street, Derby, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Barber).

His Royal Highness later opened the new factory extension at Thornton's plc, Thornton Park, Somercotes, Alfreton, Derbyshire.

The Princess Royal then visited Green Gables Cheshire Home, Wingfield Road, Alfreton, Derby, and officially opened the new wing.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 17: The Duke of Gloucester, Commissioner, English Heritage, today attended the Commissioners' Meeting at Fortress House, Savile Row, London W1.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Duke of Edinburgh, patron, will attend the Outward Bound Trust Friends' reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.00, followed by the patrons' company dinner at St James's Palace.

The Princess Royal will open new wards and facilities at Sidmouth Victoria Cottage Hospital, May Terrace, Sidmouth, Devon, at 10.00, will visit Sidmouth Homeopathic Clinic, Twyford House, Coburg Road, at 10.55, as patron.



Nigel Simms armed for his role as the Viking warrior Njal Sigmundsson in the Jorvik Viking Festival at York. Mr Simms and hundreds of other enthusiasts met to do battle there yesterday

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin will be held in the Chapel of the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, at 3.00pm on Tuesday, April 13, 1999. Dress for the occasion will be Day Dress (men) or a dark lounge suit. Those wishing to attend are invited to apply for tickets no later than Friday, March 5, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Ministry of Defence, Naval Personnel Secretariat 283, Room 222, Victory Building, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3LS. Admission to the service will be by ticket only. Applications should include the full names of all those who wish to attend. Tickets will be despatched on Wednesday, March 31, and will be issued on an individual basis. In the event that ticket applications exceed Chapel capacity, it would be helpful if applicants could indicate their connection with Lord Lewin. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by post.

Sir Alan Hodgkin, OM, FRS

A memorial service for Sir Alan Lloyd Hodgkin, OM, FRS, FRSL, Fellow of Trinity College, John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Biophysics 1969-1981, President of the Royal Society 1970-1975, Master of Trinity College 1978-1984, will be held in Trinity College Chapel, on Saturday, April 24, 1999, at 2.00pm.

Royal Astronomical Society

The 1999 Royal Astronomical Society awards are as follows: Gold Medal to Professor Bohdan Paczynski (Princeton University) and Dr Kenneth Brakenridge of the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge University. Eddington Medal to Professor Roger Blundell (CALTECH) Association.

Poulter's Company

The following have been elected officers of the Poulter's Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr C.R.S. Link Upper Warden, Mr P.C. Keen; Lower Warden, Mr D.M. Jackson.

Broken leg gives away antique theft

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE auction of a 3,000-year-old Chinese vessel has been stopped because it was stolen in 1995. A repair made after a British Museum expert dropped it in the 1960s led to its identification.

A broken leg that had been stuck back on to its tapered tripod identified it as different from the thousands of other examples that have survived worldwide.

Magnus Mitchell, antiquities specialist of the Art Loss Register, a computerised database of stolen works of art, discovered that it had been stolen from Sir John Morgan, a former Ambassador to Korea, Poland and Mexico.

The vessel was in a catalogue of Japanese and Chinese art which Sotheby's planned to auction last November. The 18cm-piece, which was valued at around £1,200, has now become the subject of a legal dispute. It has been taken away by the Belgrave police and Sir John has taken out a summons under the Police Property Act.

The Hong Kong dealer who consigned it for sale is said to have claimed that he bought it in good faith in Portobello Market for £250.

Sotheby's, a major shareholder in the register, is among the auction houses, dealers and private individuals who consult it. The auctioneers automatically submit every sale catalogue for a complete check.

Mr Mitchell checked Lot 215 in its November catalogue - an archaic bronze vessel of the late Shang dynasty, 12th to 11th century BC - against his database. Sotheby's entry acknowledged that it had been "restored". Although there are believed to be 10,000 examples of such vessels around the world, he found this one matched the stolen

one. That moment, he said, "was very exciting".

Sir John recalled how, while at the Moscow Embassy, he was visited by the British Museum's then head of antiquities, Basil Gray. "I showed it to him and he dropped it. He broke one of the legs off and felt duty-bound to have it restored by the British Museum."

Letters describing the restoration provided the evidence he needed to stop the vessel's sale. He also has Sotheby's own valuation of the piece, part of a house valuation it conducted some years ago.

He expressed disappointment that, after the object had been identified, Sotheby's had not been able to dissuade the consignors from pursuing his claim. "I've had to take out a summons under the Police Property Act. That all costs."

A hearing is scheduled for March 4 at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court.

Sotheby's said the matter is now in police hands. The firm had spoken to the consignors on the day the vessel was removed from the sale. "We have had no response to our letters thereafter."

The problem for auctioneers is that they are middlemen. "We cannot act as judge and jury on this. It's not our place to hand back an object like this. It's for the authorities," a Sotheby's spokesman said. "With the best will in the world, you cannot detect every stolen object, which is why we so actively support the Art Loss Register."

The register, which is based in Southwest London and New York, has 100,000 items on its database: practically any object - from paintings and sculptures to musical instruments, armour and watches - can be put on it to fight the trade in stolen art.

Birthdays today

Mr Rob Andrew, rugby player, 36; Mr Michael Argent, Chief Constable, North Wales, 54; Mr Michael Buerk, broadcaster, 53; Miss Phyllis Calvert, actress, 84; Mr Joe, Maria Canizares, golfer, 52; Miss Jean E. Cooke, painter, 72; Miss Sinead Cusack, actress, 51; Mr Roy Dean, diplomat, 72; Mr Phillip DeFreitas, cricketer, 33; Mr Len Deighton, author, 70; Lieutenant-General Sir Donald Dunstan, 76; Mr Miles Forman, film director, 67; Sir Charles Frossard, former Bailiff of Guernsey, 77; Mr Graeme Garden, actor and comedian, 56; Miss Tessa Hilton, former deputy editor, The Express, 48; Dr J.C. Houston, former Dean, United Medical and Dental Schools, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, 82; Mr Colin Jackson, athlete, 32; Sir Peter Lawrence, diplomat, 70; Miss Puri Leith, cookery writer and caterer, 59; Sir Michael Lick, former Director of the Home Office, 66; Professor William McKane, FBA, Emeritus Principal, St Mary's College, St Andrews University, 78; Mr Gary Neville, footballer, 24; Sir Arthur Norman, former chairman, World Wide Fund for Nature, UK, 52; Lord Paul, 68; Mr Bobby Robson, former manager, England football team, 66; Miss Cybil Shepherd, actress, 49; Mr Ned Sherrin, producer, director and writer, 68; Sir Max Williams, solicitor, 73; General Sir John Wisely, 60.

Dinners

Guild of Freemen of the City of London
Mr Norman Munday, Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London, presided at a dinner held last night at Carpenters' Hall. Mr Guy Morton-Smith, Master of the Carpenters' Company, also spoke.

Marylebone Cricket Club
The President of MCC was in the Chair at a Club Dinner held at Lord's last night. Mr Tony Dods made the presentation to the President, and the President responded.

London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates
Professor Graham Zelik, Vice-Chancellor, London University, was the guest speaker at the annual Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates' Education & Science Faculty dinner held last night at Macdonald's Square. Mr J.G. Waller, Governor of the Trust, and Major-General T.P. Toynell, director, received the guests.

Crabtree Foundation
Lord David delivered the annual dinner of the Crabtree Foundation held last night at University College London. Dr Stephen Montgomery presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.M. Barnes and Miss J. Antrim
The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mr and Mrs William Barnes, of Godalming, Surrey, and Julia, daughter of Mr and Mrs William Antrim, of Hampton Hill, Middlesex.

Mr J.S. Douglas-Mann and Miss M. Goulet
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr Keith Douglas-Mann and the late Mr Keith Douglas-Mann, of Westwinton, Sussex, and Michelle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Goulet, of Canada.

Mr R.A.N. Hastie and Miss T.K. Ordish
The engagement is announced between Rupert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ian Hastie, of Montrose, France, and Tessa, only daughter of the late Michael Ordish and of Mrs Ordish, of Chelsea, London SW3.

Mr C.C.S. Longcroft and Miss A.C. Peppitt
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of the late Mr James Longcroft and of Mrs Valerie Longcroft, of Gstaad, Switzerland, and Amanda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Peppitt, of Ford, Buckinghamshire.

Mr P.J. McCann and Miss R.J. Wise
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Joseph McCann, of Brampton, Ontario, and Ruby, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Julian Wise, of North Luffenham, Rutland.

Mr R.W. Swallow and Miss D.A. Lenton
The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mrs David Swallow, of Bath, Avon, and Deborah, daughter of Mrs Corrine Lavelle, of Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Mr T.J. McCracken and Miss A.J. Barnes
The engagement is announced between Timothy James, elder son of Mr and Mrs Stephen McCracken, of Quarrington, Lincolnshire, and Amanda Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Barnes, of Lissington, Lincolnshire.

Mr M.K. McMillen and Miss C.B. Robb
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr Terence McMillen, of Denworth, Chichester, West Sussex, and Mrs Harriet Robb, of Woody Bay, North Devon, and Beinda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Robb, of Hulsch Chempower, Wiveland, Somerset.

Dr J.S.D. Nicholls and Dr C.S. Bobrow
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Dr Michael Nicholls, of the late Mrs Nicholls of Chichester, West Sussex, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Professor Martin and Dr Lynda Bobrow, of Balsham, Cambridgeshire.

Mr B.J. Sweetman and Miss S.A. Roome
The engagement is announced between Barry, second son of Mr Henry Sweetman, of Regent's Park, London, and Sophie, eldest daughter of Mrs Godfrey Bradman, of Regent's Park, London, and the late Mr Christopher Roome.

Mr J.C. Wakefield and Miss L.J. Hicks Beach
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs R. Wakefield, of Eppershore, Nottinghamshire, and Lucinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hicks Beach, of the late Mr Mark Hicks Beach, of Great Wymondley, Gloucestershire.

Institute of Physics

The following have been elected Fellows of the Institute of Physics: Professor Peter Ade, Professor Steven Schwartz and Professor Chuan White, Queen Mary & Westfield College.

Dr Khalil Arshak, Limerick University, Ireland.

Professor John Barrow, Sussex University.

Professor David Barthelmer and Professor Alan Watson, Leeds University.

Dr John Borge, BP.

Mr Dennis Camilleri, Combined Optical Industries.

Dr John Cantrell, NASA Langley Research Centre.

Dr Janet Carter, Professor Peter Landshoff and Professor Neil Turck, Cambridge University.

Dr Ian Colbeck, Essex University.

Dr Graham Coley and Mr Martin Earwicker, DERA Farnborough.

Professor Robert Cryan and Professor John Wilson, University of Northumbria at Newcastle.

Professor Richard Ellis, Institute of Astronomy.

Dr Graham Farnell, Science Museum.

Dr Wendy Flavell, UMIST.

Professor Kenneth Freeman, Australian National University.

Professor Balazs Györfy, Bristol University.

Dr Hermann Hauser, Advanced Telecommunications Modules.

Professor Raymond Hide, Oxford University.

Mr Neil Howarth, Magnox Electronics.

Professor Kimmo Kaski, Helsinki University of Technology.

Ms Averil Macdonald, Padworth College.

Dr Nigel Mason, University College London.

Dr Stephen Masfield, Liverpool University.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Queen Mary I, reigned 1553-58, Greenwich, 1516; Count Alessandro Volta, physicist, Como, Italy, 1743; Marshall Hall, physician, Basford, Nottinghamshire, 1794; George Peabody, American philanthropist, South Danvers, Massachusetts, 1795; Ramakrishna, Hindu mystic, Hooghly, Bengal, 1836; Andrés Segovia, guitarist, Linares, Spain, 1894; Enzo Ferrari, racing car manufacturer, Modena, 1898.

DEATHS: Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, physician and theologian, Cologne, 1535; Martin Luther, Protestant reformer, Eisenach, Germany, 1546; Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter and poet, Rome, 1564; James Corbett (Gentleman Jim), world heavyweight boxing champion 1892-97, New York, 1933; Robert Oppenheimer, physicist and director of the atomic bomb, Princeton, New Jersey, 1967.

John Burry's Pilgrim's Progress was published, 1678.

The planet Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory, Arizona, 1930.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

ASADA - On February 13th at the Portland Hospital, to Karlene and Fawcett, daughter, Amliah, a sister for Ahmed.

BUTLER - On 13th February 1999, at St Joseph's Hospital, Burbank, Los Angeles, to Kirsten (née van Scherveld) and Eamon, a son, Sam James Hart.

CHALK - On February 12th at the Portland Hospital, to Marina and Malcolm, a beautiful daughter, Sarah Lucy Rose.

COLLINS - On February 17th, to Katie (née Hamilton) and Lee, a beautiful son, Charles Cameron.

DEATHY - On 15th February 1999, at St Joseph's Hospital, Burbank, Los Angeles, to Kirsten (née van Scherveld) and Eamon, a son, Sam James Hart.

EVERTON - On February 10th, to Jane (née Brown) and Kevin, a son, Toby Daniel.

GORDON - On February 12th to Harriet (née Hamilton) and John, a perfect daughter, a sister for Alexander and Iona.

HYTHES - On February 11th, to Lisa (née Jones) and Andrew, a son, Milo Fergal.

JOHNSON - On 7th February, to Lucy (née Pollock) and Glen, a son, Benjamin Anthony Montagu, a brother for Flora.

LEE - On February 9th 1999, to Vanessa (née Aashbourne) and Roger, a daughter, Alicia.

MILLS - On February 11th 1999, to Deborah (née Wilson) and William, a daughter, Jennifer Grace Rose, a sister for Toby.

DEATHS

MORRISON - On February 16th at the Royal Surrey County Hospital to Shona (née Cameron) and John, a son, Samuel James.

OSMUND - On 15th February 1999, to Melissa Ling and Nicholas, a son, Dominic James.

SECKTS - On February 9th 1999, to Virginia (née Bull) and Richard, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

SHARP-CHANDRY - On February 10th at the Portland Hospital, to Kasia and Zog, a lovely son, Andrew Jacob.

SOMERVILLE - On 17th February, to Amanda (née Williams) and Thomas, a son, Dominic James.

STEPHENS - On February 10th to Laura (née Martin) and Mark, a daughter, Isabella Daisy Rachel.

STEPHENSON - On 8th February to Debra (née Walla) and Gareth, a daughter, Phoebe Kate.

THOMAS - On February 11th, to Lisa (née Jones) and Andrew, a son, Milo Fergal.

JOHNSON - On 7th February, to Lucy (née Pollock) and Glen, a son, Benjamin Anthony Montagu, a brother for Flora.

LEE - On February 9th 1999, to Vanessa (née Aashbourne) and Roger, a daughter, Alicia.

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DEATHS

ASH - On February 16th in illness, Barbara, daughter of the late Dorothy and Harold, aged 81 years.

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DEATHS

CHAMBLISS - On

OBITUARIES

PETRE CROWDER

Petre Crowder, QC, former Conservative MP for Ruislip-Northwood, died on February 16 aged 79. He was born on July 18, 1919.

Although Petre Crowder held the safe Tory seat of Ruislip-Northwood (from 1974, Hillingdon, Ruislip-Northwood) for almost thirty years, his name was more often known to the public in his other career as a barrister. As a defending counsel he appeared in the two most notorious gangland cases of the 1960s, the Richardson "murder" trial and the Kray murder trial.

In both cases the defence was between a rock and a hard place in the face of a mass of evidence for the prosecution. In the 1967 trial, in which the Richardson brothers, Charles and Edward, leaders of a feared South London gang, were charged with offences ranging from robbery and assault to causing grievous bodily harm, he defended Edward Richardson. On June 7, 1967, at the end of a trial lasting 45 days, during which there was unprecedented intimidatory abuse of witnesses by the defendants, Edward Richardson was found guilty on two counts, of causing actual bodily harm and grievous bodily harm. He was given a ten-year jail sentence to add to one of five years he was already serving. His brother received 25 years.

In the 1969 Kray trial, in which the brothers Reggie and Ronnie Kray and others were charged with the murder of Jack "the Hat" McVitie, Crowder defended Christopher Lambrianou who, it was alleged, had been present at the scene of the crime. On March 5, 1967, after an Old Bailey trial over longer and more expensive than that of the Richardson case, Lambrianou was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment, with a recommendation that he serve at least 15 years. The Krays received life sentences with a recommendation of 30 years' detention.

But as a defence counsel Crowder was not always on the wrong end of the verdict in such intractable cases. Indeed, he had earlier successfully defended Ronnie Kray against a charge of demanding money with menaces. And three years later, representing a client of a very different sort of celebrity, he successfully defended the maverick MP Sir Gerald Nabarro against a charge of dangerous driving. Frederick Petre Crowder was the son of Sir John Crowder, who was Conservative MP for Finchley from 1935 to 1959 (when he was succeeded in the seat by the up-and-coming Margaret Thatcher). Petre was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. From Oxford he went into the Coldstream Guards when war broke out in 1939 and served with the 2nd Battalion in North Africa. In 1944 he became personal liaison officer to Lieutenant-General Sir Oliver Leese, who had impressed



Crowder photographed during the Kray trial in January 1969, when he was defending Chris Lambrianou

Montgomery by his handling of his corps at Alamein and was by then commanding the Eighth Army in Italy. Crowder was with Leese during the Eighth Army's assaults on

Cassino and the Gothic Line and remained with him when he went as C-in-C Allied Land Forces South East Asia. He was demobilised as a major in 1946 but in the

meantime he had had his first foray into politics when he contested North Tottenham at a by-election in November 1945 created by the elevation of the sitting Labour MP, Robert Morrison, to the peerage. After a vigorous campaign he topped 10,000 off the 15,000 majority Morrison had enjoyed at the Labour landslide of July that year.

Political ambitions then had to wait: he turned to the law and was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1948. In later years he always recalled with misgiving one of the earlier cases he had defended, two labourers convicted of murder and hanged in 1954. It was a case which also troubled Christmas Humphreys (later Judge Christmas Humphreys, who led for the Crown).

The legal aid authorities had refused to allow leading counsel to undertake the defence, as is normal in a murder trial, and two junior barristers, Crowder and John Hazan, took the case. Although evidence of intent to

murder was manifestly lacking, the jury convicted and in the Court of Appeal the capital punishment enthusiast Lord Goddard, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled that the conviction was correct. In a climate of public opinion that was moving against hanging, Crowder, by then an MP, appealed directly to the Home Secretary, Sir David Maxwell Fyfe, who heard him out unmoved and merely replied "The law must take its course". Ironically, it was the intractable hanging policy of Goddard and Maxwell Fyfe that contributed to the abolition of capital punishment a few years later. But Crowder always felt deeply that on that occasion there had been a miscarriage of justice.

In the meantime he had entered Parliament for Ruislip-Northwood in 1950, and held this safe Tory seat until 1974 when it became Hillingdon, Ruislip-Northwood under boundary changes. Juggling two such careers is never easy and perhaps militated

against his achieving pre-eminence in either. Crowder was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Solicitor-General, 1952-54, and to the Attorney-General, 1954-62. One of his achievements was the Rape (Anonymity of Victims) Bill which he introduced in 1975 to provide anonymity for the victims of rape. Taken over and championed by the Labour MP Robin Corbett, who introduced his own Bill, the notion became law as part of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act of 1976.

After practice on the South Eastern Circuit, Crowder was Recorder of Gravesend, 1960-67; he had been deputy chairman of Hertfordshire Quarter Sessions, 1959-73, and was chairman from 1963 to 1971. He retired from Parliament in 1979. He was Treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1991. Petre Crowder married, in 1948, the Hon Patricia Stourton, daughter of Baron Mowbray, Segrave and Stourton. He is survived by her and by their two sons.

THORA CRAIG

Thora Craig, founder of the first trade union for nurses, died on January 17 aged 88. She was born on November 25, 1910.

IN HER later years, Thora Craig believed that volunteering to nurse in Spain was "the finest and best and most important decision I've made in my life". She recalled with deep emotion the day in August 1936 when the small medical unit received a wonderful send-off from Victoria Station, where a crowd of thousands cheered as they left for Republican Spain, less than a month after the start of the war. Young and enthusiastic, she was soon to find that being a theatre nurse under war conditions demanded great skills of improvisation and the ability to work for days on end as the wounded kept arriving.

Thora Silverthorne (as she was before marriage) was the daughter of a South Wales miner whose trade union activism formed the foundations for her own political beliefs. Although her mother was an invalid, she and her seven siblings were a happy family. When her mother died, they moved to Reading, and Thora trained as a nurse at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford. As a member of the Communist Party, she was always ready to combine her humanitarian instincts with political action, helping herself to bandages for the feet of the hunger marchers who passed through Oxford, and earning herself the name "Red Silverthorne". In July 1936, the attempted right-wing coup in Spain failed to overthrow the elected Republican Government, but a bitter civil war followed. International involvement be-

came an essential element, although Britain declared an official policy of non-intervention. For Silverthorne, as for many, Spain became an early battleground in the struggle against fascism. She immediately joined a medical unit sent out from Britain by Spanish Medical Aid. She was initially sent to Granen, and later became part of a mobile unit, moving ever closer to the fighting. She found herself treating not only wounded Spanish and International Brigade soldiers, but injured Spanish women and children from nearby villages, the victims of bombing raids. The days were long and exhausting, but she formed lasting friendships, notably with a Catalan surgeon, Dr Broggi. On her return to England she married her first husband, Dr Kenneth Sinclair-Loutit,

who had also been with the medical units in Spain. She then worked as a nurse in London, where she encouraged contemporaries to form a union. The College of Nursing (later the Royal College) was at that time for trained nurses only, and then — as she pointed out — only for those prepared to accept that nurses should work hard for little money, "doing a Florence Nightingale act". So in 1937 she formed the Association of Nurses, initially in her flat in Great Ormond Street. The original 50 members soon grew to 500, calling for reduced hours, better conditions and higher pay. But relations with the College of Nursing were tense. Through the pages of *The Nursing Times* an attack on the association was mounted, and questions were raised about the integrity of its founder. As the association grew larger, however, it became part of the National Union of Public Employees (which is now part of Unison).

Despite growing family commitments, she maintained her interest in policies affecting nurses, and as secretary of the Socialist Medical Association she was part of the delegation which discussed the inception of the National Health Service with Clement Attlee in 1945. On her 85th birthday, in 1996, she was invited to a reception at the House of Commons, where she was toasted by the then Shadow Health Secretary, Harriet Harman, in recognition of her role as the founder of that early union for nurses.

Despite her worsening health, she continued to offer friendship and a warm welcome to those who came to talk to her about her intertwined interests, nursing and politics.

She is survived by her second husband, Nares, and by two daughters and a son.



Thora Craig, centre, assisting Dr Tudor-Hart in a field operating theatre in Spain, 1936

MEREDITH EDWARDS



Meredith Edwards, fatally wounded, is supported by two comrades in the epic Ealing film *Dunkirk* (1958)

Meredith Edwards, actor, died on February 8 aged 81. He was born on June 10, 1917.

A STALWART of the stage through his performances in Shakespeare at the Old Vic after the war, and more recently in his Welsh language performances at Theatr Chyd, near Mold, Meredith Edwards was perhaps most widely known as a character actor in films and on television.

His heyday in cinema was at the Ealing Studios of the 1940s and 1950s. Even when cast in a minor role, he had a knack of occupying some cranny in a film and making it all his own. Though comedy was his métier, he could also inject a moment of haunting seriousness into an apparently fleeting passage, somehow freezing-frame it and rendering it memorable.

As an actor, there was something of Shakespeare's Welsh sapper officer, Fluellen, in him: comic yet deserving of King Henry V's affectionate description, "There is much care and valour in this Welshman".

As such, he pops out of such Ealing films as *The Blue Lamp* (1950), *Girdle of Gold* (1953), *The Cruel Sea* (1953) and *Dunkirk* (1958), although the central interest is in other characters.

Gwilym Meredith Edwards

was born into a coalmining family at Rhoslanerchrugog, Denbighshire, and educated at Ruabon Grammar School. He grew up speaking Welsh and was steeped in the area's radical Welsh nationalist feeling. Later in his life he was to become an active member of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, the Welsh Language Society.

He had his early theatrical experience with the nascent and struggling Welsh National Theatre Company of Lord Howard de Walden. Like many Welsh actors he became imbued with the idea of a Welsh national theatre: in the meantime, with such a thing manifestly not transpiring, he learnt his stagecraft through touring performances.

He moved on to the Liverpool Playhouse, playing in Shakespeare. But war was impending and this phase of his career was interrupted. Edwards, a conscientious objector, worked as a fireman locally and in London, but was subsequently transferred to the Non-Combatant Corps which gave him his chance to acquaint himself with the stage through Ensa shows while on service in the Middle East.

With the war over, he returned to the stage proper, acting, appropriately, Owen Glendower in Shakespeare's *Henry IV Part 1* as one of his first roles at the Old Vic. This

was a gift for his Welshness — though, in truth the part demands a somewhat hammed-up notion of the Celtic character to contrast with Hotspur's plain-spoken northern qualities. A less obvious role was John of Gaunt in *Richard II*, though Meredith could carry off any of these Shakespeare character parts with his resonant verse-speaking.

His film debut was in the Ealing comedy *A Run for Your Money* (1950) in which he was one of a distinguished cast — which included Alec Guinness, Moira Lister, Donald Houston, Hugh Griffith and Joyce Grenfell — who impersonated Welsh rugby supporters on the loose during a day out in London. Admittedly, the film was London W5's view of the Welsh character on its most simplistic level. But Edwards was pro enough to fall into line with that — indeed, his remit in most of these Ealing essays was, generally speaking, that of the professional Welshman.

In most of the other films he had minor parts, but in *Dunkirk* he decided to make his mark as a Welshman of more than the merely comic sort. As Private Bellman, one of a party of soldiers being led to the Dunkirk beachhead by John Mills, he is fatally wounded when a grenade bursts close by. Edwards decided to utter his dying words in Welsh

and, in spite of protests from the director Leslie Norman that no one would understand them, he got his way, thereby injecting a note of authenticity into the moment.

From the 1960s onwards Edwards was a familiar face in many of the popular television series of the day, from *Coronation Street* to *Z Cars*, and in the following decade the growth of arts theatres in Wales gave him much greater opportunities of acting in his native country. The founding of Theatr Chyd so close to his home in Denbighshire was particularly lucky for him and he featured in a number of the theatre's productions, many of them in Welsh.

The establishment of S4C, the Welsh-language fourth television channel, in the 1980s presented him with further opportunities of acting in Welsh. He was proud that all his children worked in television.

Edwards remained a passionate nationalist to the end. He had been routed when he stood as a Plaid Cymru candidate at the 1966 general election, and was overjoyed to see, first, the party gaining representation at Westminster and finally the day that Wales got its own assembly.

Meredith Edwards was married to Daisy Clark. They had two sons, one of whom is head of drama at HTV, and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

MEMORIAL SERVICES

WHITAKER - The Memorial Service to celebrate the lives of Sir James and Marybeth, Lady Whitaker will be held at St. Swithun's Church, Bedford at 1.15 pm on 5th March. Tributes will be sent by request to (01777) 880064.

BIRTHDAYS

MELIANA - Whether all the love in the world flows from her heart and makes up your birthday.

SERVICES

FLUMP PATRIOT - National Police Agency. If you are planning a party, a photo session or a dinner, call 01383 718009.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAILABLE - 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 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Electra to close itself after rejecting 3i bid

By Robert Cole

ELECTRA Investment Trust, one of the country's most respected venture capital investment funds, is proposing to close itself down. The radical move comes after the board of the trust rejected takeover advances from 3i, the development capital specialist.

The proposal, which will take up to five years to implement, was received angrily by many private investors who attended Electra's annual meeting yesterday. The move has grim implications for the investment trust sector, which has struggled to find favour in recent years, with trust shares traded at widening discounts to best asset values.

Michael Stoddart, the chairman of Electra, admitted: "The whole investment trust industry is under siege." Electra's move follows restructuring plans already launched by the Scottish Eastern Investment Trust and Anglo & Overseas Investment Trust.

Mr Stoddart proposed that Electra — which is worth about £1.2 million — should buy back up to 40 per cent of the trust's shares. The buyback will cost about £500 million and be funded on borrowed money. Electra has arranged to borrow an additional £250 million to fund continuing investment commitments and working capital.

The directors propose to sell its many shareholdings in unquoted companies which the trust owns. Proceeds will be used to pay back the debt. Once the debt is cleared surviving investors stand to receive further capital payments. Electra also said: "Under current market conditions there are good prospects for attractive realisations from the portfolio over the next 12 to 18 months."

Mr Stoddart said that the plan had been developed to satisfy institutional investors, which speak for 80 per cent of the shares. Electra has not ruled out the possibility that it may be bought outright. Unsubstantiated rumours have circulated that several US institutions may want to acquire it. It is understood that 3i remains interested but is concerned about overpaying. It has offered 70p a share. Yesterday, the shares rose 10½p to 68½p.

Mr Stoddart said "preliminary" interest had been shown by other, unnamed, purchasers. He also suggested that Electra Fleming, the fund management company half owned by Electra and half by Robert Fleming, the investment bank, may be sold separately.

He said: "The board rejected 3i Group's widely reported approach on value grounds alone. The board is clear that it would only recommend an offer for the trust at an appropriate premium to its updated net asset value."

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Woolwich puts home loans in US venture

By Caroline Merrell
Banking Correspondent

THE Woolwich is moving further away from its building society roots through a joint venture with a big US financial services group which will eventually service and administer all its mortgages.

The joint venture, the first of its kind in the UK, is with Countrywide Credit Industries, the largest independent US mortgage lender and servicer. The Californian company operates a \$212 billion (£130 billion) portfolio of loans, and services more than two million homeowners in the US.

Through the company, John Stewart, Woolwich chief executive, said he wanted to securitise more of the bank's mortgages, which would lead to a reduction in costs.

He said: "We will be able to offer long-term fixed-rate mortgages like they do in the States." From the end of next year, all Woolwich's new mortgages will go through the joint venture. Eventually the bank intends to service and administer its existing loans through the link up. Angelo Mozilo, Countrywide Credit Industries chief executive officer, said: "In the States we can turn round a loan in ten days, compared to the 30 days that is the norm over there [in Britain]."

He added: "From Countrywide's perspective, this joint venture provides new and diverse growth opportunities by tapping into markets outside the US."

Borrowers in America benefit from long-term fixed-rate loans that carry no redemption penalties. Mr Stewart said the link-up would not lead to any redundancies among Woolwich staff. Instead they would be trained on the new systems.

The new company was unveiled as the bank announced a 10 per cent increase in profits to £505 million, its first full year as a bank. The Woolwich said that it had managed to increase its share of the new mortgage market from 1 per cent at the start of the year to 5.9 per cent — a higher level than its total share of the mortgage market which is 5.4 per cent. The 1 per cent was artificially low because many borrowers had redeemed their mortgages as soon as they received their share windfall.

The bank announced a final dividend of 7½p plus a special dividend of 15p per share. The bank still has about 1.3 million small shareholders who benefited from an average 657 share windfall at flotation. Mr Stewart said: "Taking the average share allocation of 657 free shares, shareholders received dividends of £105 for 1997, and we are proposing they receive more than £168 for 1998."

Mr Stewart also said that he had an entire team working on mergers and acquisitions. He said that he was particularly keen on making an acquisition in Europe, where consolidation in the banking sector has only just begun.

On merging with another bank or insurance company in the UK, Mr Stewart said the bank would be open to offers. "If someone had the same strategic objectives as us, we would be interested."

He said the bank had about £400 million that it could spend on acquisitions, but said it would return it to shareholders if a suitable purchase could not be found. Net lending in the UK grew from £758 million to £1.12 billion, while retail deposit balances fell from £995 million to £257 million, representing a fall in market share of 3.7 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

The bank managed to increase profits on its non-core businesses of life insurance, pensions, unit trusts, personal equity plans and independent financial advice. Profits on life insurance and pensions increased from £32 million to £34 million, profits on unit trusts and Peps rose from £17.8 million to £24.8 million, and profits from the independent financial advice arm rose from £18.8 million to £26 million.



Sir Brian Jenkins, left, chairman, and John Stewart, chief executive, yesterday reported a big leap in pre-tax profit

more than £168 for 1998."

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BP Amoco to shed 3,000 more jobs

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

BP AMOCO is laying off a further 3,000 staff in a defensive move aimed at protecting its earnings from the oil price squeeze that cut its fourth-quarter profits by 59 per cent to \$524 million (£320 million).

The company, formed by the takeover in January of America's Amoco, is preparing to tackle the threat of low oil prices and disappearing chemical margins. Sir John Browne, BP Amoco's chief executive, said that the company would focus its efforts on generating cash and, like its more troubled rival Shell, he revealed a disposal programme and drastic cuts in spending that will shift investment away from high-cost production areas, such as the North Sea and Alaska. "Our intention is to be cash-neutral at \$11 per barrel."

BP Amoco is paying a final-quarter dividend of 10 cents a share (6.12p), up from 9.4 cents in the previous year.

The company is cutting capital expenditure by \$3 billion to \$7 billion for the current year. Exploration budgets fall from \$950 million to \$300 million. Sir John said the focus in future would be on low-cost areas such as the Caspian, Angola, deep-water exploration in the Gulf of Mexico as well as gas in Trinidad. Disposals are expected to raise \$1 billion.

BP profits this year will be hit by a \$1.5 billion charge to cover the cost of 7,000 jobs already cut and the 3,000 announced yesterday. BP originally indicated that the Amoco merger would result in 6,000 redundancies as duplication was removed but the need to cut costs has increased the toll.

Sir John said the \$2 billion in pre-tax savings promised when the takeover was announced last August would be achieved within 12 months, a year ahead of the original target.

Analysts speculate that Amoco's contribution to the 1998 results was just 25 per cent, well short of the 40 per cent that the US company accounted for under the merger terms.

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Prescriptions for the NHS

Lifestyle drugs and suitable cases for treatment

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STOCK MARKET INDICES

| | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------|
| FTSE 100 | 6075.4 | (-30.2) |
| FTSE All Share | 2720.0 | (-13.09) |
| NASDAQ | 14158.07 | (-73.97) |
| New York | 9235.42 | (+38.30)* |
| Dow Jones | 1245.51 | (+3.74)* |
| S&P Composite | | |

US RATE

| | | |
|---------------|--------|----------|
| Federal Funds | 4 1/4% | (5 1/4%) |
| Long bond | 5 1/8% | (5 1/4%) |
| Yield | 5.33% | (5.35%) |

LONDON MONEY

| | | |
|-------------------|--------|----------|
| 3-month interbank | 5 1/4% | (5 1/4%) |
| Life long gilts | | |
| Future (Mar) | 117.05 | (116.98) |

STERLING

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------|
| New York | | |
| £/\$ | 1.6340* | (1.6330) |
| London | | |
| £/\$ | 1.6358 | (1.6335) |
| SP | 1.4250* | (1.4611) |
| Yen | 118.00* | (118.89) |
| Yen | 184.48 | (183.03) |
| £ Index | 101.3 | (101.4) |

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

| | | |
|---------|---------|----------|
| London | 1.1250* | (1.1205) |
| £/\$ | 1.4250* | (1.4611) |
| Yen | 118.00* | (118.89) |
| Yen | 184.48 | (183.03) |
| £ Index | 101.3 | (101.4) |

Tokyo close Yen 118.88

NORTH SEA OIL

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Brent 15-day (Apr) | \$10.20 | (\$10.30) |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|

GOLD

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------------|
| London close | \$294.75 | (\$295.25) |
|--------------|----------|------------|

Exchange rates... Page 28

Jobless figures fall to lowest level since 1980

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

BRITAIN continued to create jobs last month, despite the economic slowdown, with the claimant unemployment total falling to its lowest level since June 1980.

The monthly claimant count fell 5,700 to 1,305,300, giving an unemployment rate of 4.6 per cent. There was also a decline in the Government's preferred way of accounting for the total, which includes those who are ineligible for benefit. This stood at 1,790,000 between October and December, down 15,000 from the previous quarter.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics showed that the number of people in full and part-time jobs grew to 27.3 million in the last quarter of 1998, the highest total since records began in 1973.

Another sign of continuing robustness in the labour market came from vacancy figures. Notifications of new vacancies at jobcentres rose by 9,300 in January from 229,900 in December. This compares with a figure of 198,300 in January 1998.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at the City firm Charterhouse, who has long argued that the economy is not nearly as fragile as many other commentators have suggested, said: "If the economy is so weak, why are vacancies so strong?"

There were some signs of weakness in yesterday's figures including a fall in manufacturing jobs (offset by a large increase in service sector employment) and trade unions called for further cuts in interest rates. Their hopes were bolstered yesterday by the release of the minutes of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meeting two weeks ago, which showed the committee unanimously in favour of lower rates.

Eight out of the nine members were in favour of the cut of half a percentage point that was delivered, with one member — Willem Buiter — arguing for a three-quarter point fall in rates. Professor Buiter said he believed that the MPC had overestimated the strength of inflationary pressures in its forecasts.

The majority of the committee said that a cut of 0.5 per cent would provide "some degree of insurance" against the economic outlook worsening.

Coats Viyella deal highlights plight of clothing sector

By Adam Jones

THE sorry state of Britain's clothing industry was further exposed yesterday when the stock market implied that the textiles businesses of the once-great Coats Viyella are practically worthless — or even a liability to shareholders.

The group, whose shares have slumped from the FTSE 100 to obscurity in recent years, yesterday sold one of its precision engineering businesses for £322 million in cash to Cinven, the venture capital group. The business, which started as a zip manufacturer, makes metal and plastic components for the likes of Gillette and Ford. It had profits of £38.4 million in 1997, on sales of £319 million.

Coats Viyella's remaining businesses include a thread maker, the Jasper chain of clothes shops and clothing factories that supply Marks & Spencer.

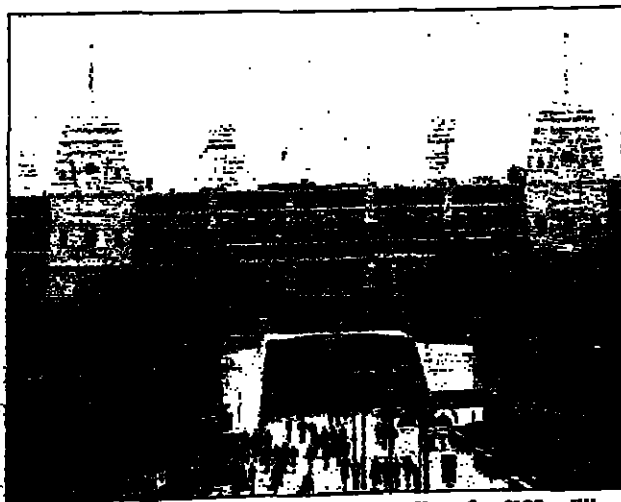
The sale is likely to be worth a net £270 million to £280 million to the group because it is taking on the engineering business's debt as part of the deal.

However, this net sale figure may be more than the market capitalisation of Coats Viyella in its entirety. The shares rose from 39p yesterday to 39p, valuing the group pre-disposal at just £274 million. The sale proceeds will go to reducing borrowings.

Tempus, page 30

American bidder aims for Wembley goal

By Jason Nisse



ENSDC has agreed to buy Wembley Stadium for £103 million

BUGS BUNNY, David Beckham and Ken Bates, the irrepressible chairman of Chelsea, are all set to play a part in an epic struggle over the future of Wembley Stadium.

The battle lines were drawn yesterday when Wembley, the listed company that owns the "Venue of Legends" said it has received a second bid approach.

Wembley plc already has one suitor in the shape of Enic, whose interests range from a 25 per cent stake in Rangers, the Glasgow football club, to the UK marketing rights of Warner Brothers cartoons. It said in December that it was willing to pay £250 million in cash and shares for the company.

Wembley's new suitor is SFX — the US group that not only owns or operates 73 sporting and entertainment venues but also owns The Marquee Group, one of the world's largest sports management agencies. In the UK, Marquee represents some of the country's top stars, including the England soccer trio of David Beckham, Michael Owen and Alan Shearer. SFX has not said how much it is willing to offer, or when it will make the bid, but its approach has already drawn the ire of Ken Bates.

Mr Bates is the chairman of the English National Stadium Development Company, the Football Association-backed body that has a deal to buy Wembley Stadium from Wembley for £103 million. The ENSDC has said it will tear down the stadium and rebuild it at a cost of £120 million.

This deal has yet to be approved by Wembley shareholders, and three of its non-executive directors have voiced their opposition. An extraordinary meeting to decide the issue is scheduled for next month.

Mr Bates has said that if the stadium is not sold to the

ENSDC, the FA will move all the England internationals to other venues around the country, so depriving Wembley of much of its income.

Neither Enic nor SFX would want to buy Wembley without the stadium, and it is understood that the Office of Fair Trading has been asked to look at whether the FA's threat on England games would constitute a restraint of trade.

The City has been unimpressed by the battle. Although it marked Wembley shares up 21p to 378p yesterday, the stock remains 40p below Enic's indicative offer price.

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Starwood seeks acquisition for UK launch

By Dominic Walsh

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts, owner of the Sheraton and Westin hotel chains, is seeking to bring its Four Points and W Hotels brands to the UK for the first time.

The US group, which was recently forced to surrender its tax-efficient status as a real estate investment trust (REIT) to become a normal corporation, yesterday said that it is on the hunt for existing groups that could be converted to the mid-market Four Points brand.

Bob Cotter, head of Starwood's European operations, said: "We are not

going to approach Four Points on a one-off basis. We'd probably be looking for a group with at least 20 properties. It could be a joint venture, it could be a franchise, or it could be an outright acquisition."

Juergen Bartels, chief executive of Starwood's hotel arm, said that the company was also actively seeking a site for its fledgling W Hotels brand, an upmarket boutique-style concept aimed at business travellers. "London would be an ideal location for W," he said.

The two men were speaking at the London launch of Starwood's innovative, new customer loyalty

scheme, Starwood Preferred Guest, which has cost \$50 million (about £30 million) to develop and will be rolled out this year at a further cost of \$100 million.

The scheme will be backed up by a huge investment in staff training and an \$800 million refurbishment programme across the group's 200 owned hotels, which make up almost a third of its total worldwide portfolio. Mr Cotter said the new loyalty programme "takes away all the sins of the hotel rewards schemes" that prevented guests from cashing in their points at the busiest times of the year. "Members can redeem their

points where they want, when they want," he said.

Although the loss of its REIT status has badly dented Starwood's share price and its once-legendary financial muscle, Mr Bartels said it had sufficient resources to continue to develop its European presence. He said that it had just completed a \$42 million renovation of the Palace in Madrid and would soon be closing the Grand in Rome for a \$30 million revamp. Both are part of its Luxury Collection, a business it also hopes one day to bring to the UK through the acquisition of a landmark property in London.

In the first half of last year, before

Congress brought in legislation affecting REITs, Starwood was cited as a potential bidder for virtually every significant UK property or hotel group that came up for sale, including the Savoy Group and Gleneagles. Mr Bartels admitted that Starwood had been "very active" in pursuing the Savoy Group, but described the £520 million paid by Blackstone, the US investment firm, as "a very full price".

He declined to comment on recent rumours that Starwood has been cast-ironing over Dublin's Doyle Hotel Group, whose takeover talks with Jurys Hotel Group are running behind schedule.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Accounting reform delayed by bug

FEAR of computer breakdowns at the millennium will delay enforcement of a new accounting reform. Financial Reporting Standard 15, Tangible Fixed Assets, obliges quoted companies to depreciate the properties they use as well as their computer networks. It also insists that they revalue assets regularly or not at all. The reforms brought in by the new accounting standard will force top retail chains, pub and hotel groups and high street banks to make widespread changes to their accounting systems. Those most affected have appealed to the Accounting Standards Board not to put more stress on their systems ahead of the millennium, so the new rule will only be compulsory for accounting periods ending after March 22, 2000, a much longer run-in period than usual.

Sir David Tweedie, the board's chairman, said the new standard would close loopholes. "It will put to an end the absurd practice of revaluing only when convenient and carrying assets in the accounts for years at revaluations that fail to reflect significant falls in value in the hope that the falls will not prove permanent. Wishful thinking is not an acceptable accounting practice," he said. **Commentary, page 29**

EC inquiry timetable

AN INVESTIGATION into alleged collusion by banks on charges for exchanging euros could take up to three weeks, the European Commission said yesterday. On Tuesday EC officials raided eight banks in France, Germany and Italy, seizing documents relating to foreign exchange transactions. If the Commission can prove the cartel allegations, it could levy fines up to a maximum of 10 per cent of a bank's turnover. Customers who suffered as a result of such a cartel could also claim damages in national courts.

Milner on the rise

MILNER ESTATES, the property company whose chairman is John Rubiat, reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £3.4 million from £2.7 million in the half year to November 30. Earnings were 5.6p a share, against 10p previously. The interim dividend rises to 1.42p a share from 1.38p. The shares rose 10½p to 24½p yesterday. Milner said that it had made savings of 40 per cent on administrative expenses after the acquisition of two property companies, leading to an annualised cost reduction of £2 million.

Power report awaited

OFFER, the UK electricity regulator, is close to making a statement on how it will deal with unacceptably high electricity pool prices. Callum McCarthy, Director-General of electricity supply, announced on January 27 that he was investigating manipulation of pool prices by the generators. A statement is expected tomorrow or Monday. The pool pricing system, under which prices paid to all generators are set at the highest price bid, is already under review after a government decision last year. A revised commodity price-based system is due to take effect from April 2000.

Hall urges rejection

HALL ENGINEERING, the diversified engineering group, has urged its shareholders to reject the offer from rival TT Group, describing it as "an opportunistic attempt to acquire the company on the cheap". Hall rejected last month's 79p-per-share offer, valuing the company at £52 million. It has also declared a final dividend of 0.625p for the year to December 31, maintaining the total at 10.4p. John Newman, TT's executive chairman, described the document as "a typical, foreseeable response".

Fears on Hoechst deal

THE proposed merger of Rhône-Poulenc of France and Germany's Hoechst to form one of Europe's biggest chemicals companies has been called into question by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), the largest single shareholder in Hoechst with a 24.5 per cent stake. Yesterday Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Sabah, the Kuwait Oil Minister who also heads the KPC, said: "This merger does not serve our interests." Hoechst and Rhône-Poulenc had announced they would merge their life sciences businesses into a firm called Aventis.

Vanguard application

VANGUARD MEDICA, the drug development company, has applied for European marketing approval for its migraine drug. It has submitted its filing on frovatriptan to the French regulatory authority, which will play the lead role under Europe's mutual recognition procedure. Vanguard's shares were unchanged at 152½p. Shareholders have been disappointed that Vanguard chose Elan Corporation of Ireland as its marketing partner for frovatriptan in North America. It has still to secure a European marketing deal.

Virgin invests in Net

VIRGIN is to invest £50 million in its Virgin Net Internet service, the company announced yesterday. Virgin Net's 150,000 current subscribers will be able to take the free service from April and other subscribers will be able to join up in May. As with other free Internet services, customers will still have to pay their telephone bills for time spent on-line. The announcement comes only days after BT began offering a free Internet service. Dixons, the retailer, has proved to be one of the most successful free access providers, attracting more than one million subscribers.

Bulmer to sparkle

HP BULMER, the cidermaker, said yesterday that the second half of the year would be buoyed by "extremely good" sales over the crucial Christmas period. In October, the company gave a cautious view of its prospects after a disastrous December the previous year. However, Mike Hughes, chief executive, said that his fears had proved unfounded and he felt confident of a good full-year performance. Analysts are expecting pre-tax profits of just over £23 million for the year to April 30, up from £22.1 million last time.

Sales of modified tomato puree a success

By Paul Durman

SAINSBURY'S and Sainsbury's have sold 1.6 million cans of genetically modified tomato puree in the past three years, it emerged yesterday.

Zeneca, which produced the modified tomatoes, said cans of the GM product had outsold conventional tomato paste by two to one. Sir David Barnes, chief executive, said there had been "not a single complaint".

However, it is believed that sales of the puree at Sainsbury's have dipped sharply since the recent controversy blew up.

Zeneca said it welcomed the debate over the safety of GM foods. Michael Praggett, chief executive of Zeneca Agrochemicals, said: "We think it important that there be an open debate so that consumers can appreciate the benefits that we believe will come from this new technology — for agriculture, for farmers and for consumers."

He added: "Consumers are looking for some assurances that these products do offer the benefits that are claimed and that they are safe. The only way that consumers will get that is through information and through having choice."

The tomato puree sold by the supermarket chains is clearly labelled as genetically modified — addressing one of the concerns of the biotechnology industry's critics. Zeneca used a gene from another tomato to produce a denser fruit with less water, thus reducing waste in processing.

Zeneca is also working on disease-resistant bananas, but these will not reach the shops for another four years.

Zeneca close to revealing buyer

By Paul Durman

ZENECA, whose shareholders vote today on its proposed £48 billion merger with Astra of Sweden, is close to announcing the buyer for its specialty chemicals business.

The sale of the business, which is expected to fetch up to £1.5 billion, will be announced in the next few weeks. BASF and Bayer of Germany, and Rohm & Haas of the US, are believed to be the most likely buyers of Zeneca's specialties division, which makes swimming pool sanitisers, colourants and dyes, and pharmaceutical and agrochemical intermediates.

A strong performance from specialties was a highlight of Zeneca's last annual results before it completes the deal that will create AstraZeneca, which expects to be the world's third-largest pharmaceuticals group. Recent improvements to the business enabled specialties to increase underlying operating profits by 21 per cent, although currencies and other factors reduced the reported total to £88 million, a 4 per cent improvement.

The group as a whole reported a 2 per cent decline in pre-tax profits before one-off charges to £1.06 billion. However, it said that the strength of the pound had cut £131 million from operating profits, which were 15 per cent ahead on a like-for-like comparison.

Sir David Barnes, chief executive, said he did not expect regulatory approval of the merger to be unduly delayed by recent requests for additional information.

Analysts said the results con-

tained few surprises but expressed concern that the 14 per cent growth in underlying pharmaceutical sales was heavily dependent on older drugs.

Tom McKillop, chief executive of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, and chief executive designate of AstraZeneca, said he was not disappointed by sales of Seroquel, the schizophrenia treatment whose sales reached £39 million last year, and Zomig, the migraine drug that generated £61 million.

However, he acknowledged that the migraine market was growing more slowly than expected because doctors were reluctant to prescribe the latest generation products, preferring to send patients home with aspirin. He said: "It's actually bad medicine. It's not good for the patient, it makes the migraine worse and more frequent."

Pharmaceuticals contributed £815 million of profits, a 4 per cent improvement but a 15 per cent increase on a like-for-like basis. It contributed £2.8 billion of the group's £5.5 billion of sales.

Operating profits from agrochemicals declined by 3 per cent to £216 million, hit by a collapse of herbicide sales in South-East Asia. However, fungicide sales grew by 45 per cent, led by the "outstanding success" of Amistar, whose sales grew to £177 million. Zeneca said like-for-like profits from agrochemicals were up 13 per cent.

A second interim dividend of 28p a share increases the total by 9 per cent to 42p.



Sorrell: fall in Asia Pacific not as bad as originally feared

WPP sees billings top £8bn for the first time

By Jason Nisse

WPP GROUP, which owns the advertising agencies J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather, saw its gross billings exceed £8 billion last year for the first time since it was formed in the mid-1980s.

The group enjoyed a 9.8 per cent growth in income despite difficult trading conditions in Asia and Latin America, two of its most important markets.

Martin Sorrell, chief executive, said that the fall in business in Asia Pacific was not as bad as had been feared. India and Taiwan were both surprisingly strong while Thailand and Singapore had shown signs of recovery.

However, WPP is still experiencing problems in Latin America where it has been expanding, though largely in Argentina, which is more stable than Brazil at the moment.

WPP's growth came on the back of good performances in Europe, the UK and the US, with the group's information and consultancy side a star performer with a 26 per cent rise in income.

Overall, the company saw pre-tax profits rise 20 per cent to £213 million. Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 18.8p and there is to be a 20 per cent increase in the final dividend to 1.72p, making a total of 2.56p, also up a fifth.

Despite these strong figures, WPP shares fell 18½p to 464½p, as the market took profits after a strong rise in WPP shares from a low of 202p last year.

Mr Sorrell said that prospects for this year were good, with operations likely to receive boosts from the US presidential election and the Sydney Olympics, which both take place next year.

Temps, page 30
City Diary, page 31

Ethical investors turn spotlight on GM foods

By Susan Emmett

BRITISH and European companies potentially caught up in the genetically modified food furor have been identified in research by an ethical investment organisation. The threat of litigation, however, has prevented publication of the list.

A study conducted by the Ethical Investment Research Service (EIRIS) has identified companies involved in genetic engineering, in an attempt to enable investors to screen manufacturers and retailers according to their food-labelling policies and attitudes towards avoiding genetically modified food.

Fears of ending up in the libel courts have prevented EIRIS from publishing the list and publicly naming any com-



Walker: best practice

panies. Iceland, the retailer led by Malcolm Walker, is the only exception. It was quoted as an example of best practice for its commitment to avoid-

ing genetically modified ingredients in its own-brand foods. Further information on individual companies is available from EIRIS but investors will be required to sign a contract outlining their reasons for wanting the data.

Karen Eldridge, head of client services at EIRIS, said: "Our information is only for investment purposes. EIRIS does not engage in campaigning."

The study is the culmination of research into company reports, government figures and EIRIS's own questionnaire, completed by 40 companies.

Ms Eldridge said: "Clients can develop a policy that meets their own needs. Some may take a 'best of sector' approach."

GM regulations, page 10

Leicester City on end of bid

LEICESTER CITY, the Premiership football club, has received a bid approach from one of its former directors, John Sharp (Jason Nisse writes).

The approach, made on Tuesday, is believed to be supported by Tom Smeaton, the group's former chief executive who was ousted in controversial circumstances last year. The bid is expected to value the club at about £20 million.

The club is currently trying to gain permission to move to a new, purpose-built stadium. However, the plans have faced opposition and the scheme is likely to be passed to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions for a final decision. Leicester shares rose 5p to 42½p yesterday.

M&C Saatchi wins BT deal

By Jason Nisse

M&C SAATCHI, the advertising agency formed by Lord Saatchi after he was ousted from Saatchi & Saatchi, has won £80 million of business from BT as part of the telecoms company's shake-up of its advertising accounts.

However, Abbott Mead Vickers, the agency which has held the UK's largest advertising account for more than four years, has held on to more than half of the business.

BT spends more than £60 million a year on advertising. In its review of its need for the next four years it has split the account into three parts.

The largest, worth up to £40 million a year, will stay with AMV. This means that campaigns such as *It's Good To Talk* and *Thousands Are Com-*

ing Back To BT will continue. The success in retaining most of the BT account will come as a relief to Omnicom, the US media services company in the midst of buying AMV.

The account to sell BT's advanced data services to "decision-makers", which makes up more than half the group's business, is to go to M&C. This is estimated to be worth about £20 million a year.

A third account, aiming to bring in young customers, is expected to be awarded next week. This business, worth just £5 million a year, has attracted bids from five agencies — AMV, Duckworth, Finn Grubb Waters, St Lukes, HHCL and Weedon & Kennedy. Duckworth Finn is tipped as the likely winner.

Wright prepared to back Loftus Road with £4m

By Saeed Shah

CHRIS WRIGHT, the music multi-millionaire, is prepared to stump up nearly £4 million to provide working capital for Loftus Road, the Queens Park Rangers football and Wasps rugby club combine listed on the Alternative Investment Market.

Loftus Road said yesterday that it is seeking to raise £2.3 million, after expenses, by way of an open offer of 20 million new shares issued at 13p a share, fully underwritten by Wright who holds 25 per cent of the company. Mr Wright, the company's chairman, will also make a £1.4 million loan available, the company said.

Just last Friday, Mr Wright announced that he had raised £5.6 million through the sale of shares in Chrysalis, taking his stake in the media group where he is also chairman down to below 30 per cent.

The cash-raising exercise comes as the company reported pre-tax losses of £3.87 million in the six months to November 30, on turnover down sharply to £2.81 million, from £4.31 million.

CMillwall, another quoted club, said it is seeking to raise £300,000 with the issue of 30 million new shares at 1p each to fund the development of young players.



Wright: sold Chrysalis shares

Heinz means to make UK centre for Europe business

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

HJ HEINZ, the giant US food group, plans to make Britain the centre of its European operations as part of a vast global restructuring announced yesterday.

Heinz is also to sell its Weight Watchers dieting centres, whose most recent advertising campaign centred on the dieting achievements of the Duchess of York.

The company plans to cut its global workforce by 4,000. In Europe seven of its 21 factories will be closed, although Heinz did not disclose where the cuts will fall. In the UK a Heinz factory at

Harlesden, northwest London, which employs 450 people, is believed to be at risk. Heinz employs a total of 3,200 staff in the UK. Other plants are at Kitt Green near Wigan, Kendal in Cumbria, Redditch in Worcestershire and Liverpool.

William Johnson, the company's chief executive officer, said changes outlined yesterday would enable European factories to boost production by 20 per cent. As part of the cost cutting, Heinz will scrap 12 of its 24 styles of tomato sauce bottle it sells in

The sale of the Weight Watchers diet centre chain is a crucial plank of the restructuring. The company has not said whether it has lined up a buyer for the internationally famous diet group.

Mr Johnson said Heinz would sell Weight Watchers to concentrate on its traditional food businesses, especially tomato sauce, frozen foods, tuna, soups, infant foods and pet foods.

Heinz business in Europe is worth \$2.5 billion (£1.6 billion) annually, accounting for about 25 per cent of the company's global sales.

EXCHANGE RATES

| | Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| | Buy | Sell |
| Australia \$ | 2.08 | 2.09 |
| Austria Sch | 21.06 | 21.07 |
| Belgium Fr | 67.00 | 67.04 |
| Canada C\$ | 2.75 | 2.76 |
| Denmark Kr | 0.8891 | 0.8916 |
| Spain Ptas | 166.64 | 166.78 |
| Finland Mk | 5.94 | 5.95 |
| France Fr | 6.55 | 6.56 |
| Germany DM | 3.014 | 3.015 |
| Greece Dr | 166.64 | 166.78 |
| Hong Kong \$ | 7.75 | 7.76 |
| Iceland Iskr | 133.33 | 133.33 |
| Indonesia Rp | 1,202.6 | 1,202.6 |
| Ireland P | 7.8756 | 7.8756 |
| Italy Lit | 2036.27 | 2036.27 |
| Japan Yen | 109.69 | 109.69 |
| Netherlands Gld | 3.603 | 3.603 |
| New Zealand \$ | 3.15 | 3.16 |
| Norway Kr | 13.77 | 13.77 |
| Portugal Esc | 304.80 | 304.80 |
| S Africa Rand | 16.69 | 16.69 |
| Sweden F | 254.04 | 254.04 |
| Switzerland Fr | 13.75 | 13.75 |
| Taiwan N\$ | 26.48 | 26.48 |
| Turkey Lira | 591577 | 591577 |
| USA \$ | 1.64 | 1.65 |

Rates for small denomination currencies only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

L'Enterprise culture



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Sir John Browne wields a fearsome axe. The dramatic downsizing of BP Amoco is a fine indication that, had he not opted for a career in the oil industry, he would have made a fortune as a lumberjack. He is ruthlessly chopping out the deadwood in the merged business even before the last rises had been administered to whole tiers of management.

The result is that the massive savings projected from the merger will be realised a year ahead of the original schedule. That is just as well since income is proving harder to come by with the oil price mired at its lowest for 25 years and worldwide demand for Amoco's chemicals hardly thriving. With no early upturn in the marketplace in sight, the two companies will be much stronger as one.

The creation of BP Amoco, now Britain's biggest company, was Sir John's determined response to the inhospitable conditions. There may be some who look at Amoco's contribution to the profit pot and cavil that he may have paid a little too much for the business but if BP had hesitated, it feared that one of the United States oil giants would have swallowed Amoco. Sir John was not going to jeopardise his tanker for a haphazard start.

A similar sense of conviction that it is the right thing to do seems to be missing from that other, rather smaller, mooted oil

merger. It was early January when word seeped out that L'Esso and Enterprise were in talks. Since then, nothing has been heard of L'Enterprise.

The two companies are continuing to pore over each other's books but without any obvious enthusiasm. If the talks are leading nowhere, then they will soon have to own up, probably before L'Esso reports its figures next week.

That will not be a happy occasion for the company. L'Esso will have no option but to take some rather painful writedowns against assets acquired when the oil price was near its peak and it might have been better if it could have jollied investors along with more upbeat talk of its own version of BP Amoco. But not even Sir John Browne would be able to find scope for huge cost cutting if the two were to merge. L'Esso has already had to slash its overheads. The savings from a merged head office would not be enough to justify the deal.

If there was logic in the thought of putting the two explorers together, it was that their portfolios would provide some geographic balance. The response from investors has indicated that

in these markets, they feel happier with Big Oil than small, even if better balanced. If a major could be encouraged to take over L'Esso and Enterprise, the institutions would be in favour. Such an arrangement would also solve the problem of whether Pierre Jungels, of Enterprise, or Joe Darby, of L'Esso, would be the boss of L'Enterprise.

Sir John Browne never had any doubts on that count.

Woolwich bolsters its arsenal

In Woolwich town centre, the charity shops now almost outnumber the mainstream retailers. The local building society, however, has thrown off its south-east London origins and turned into a pioneer of the financial services world.

As soon as it packed up its headquarters and moved to suburban Bechtel, it was clear

that the Woolwich had ambitions. First it turned itself into a bank, then came expansion into Europe and now we have a joint venture with a racy Californian outfit. Can it be long before perfect United States teeth will smile and proclaim "We're with the Woolwich?"

"Nous sommes au Woolwich" is what John Stewart wants to hear more of before that. He believes that his deal with Countrywide Credit will provide him with the basis on which to be a more competitive provider of mortgages across Europe.

There is certainly scope for improvement. Americans who find themselves relocated to Britain are completely bemused by the extraordinarily complicated and long-winded procedure which has to be endured in order to buy a house. Even if the Woolwich initiative fails to provide much cheaper mortgages — and while borrowers may hope that margin improvements are passed on

to them, shareholders would approve of the bank pocketing them — it may lead to a speedier service and that alone should be enough to win customers.

The British workforce has proved a peculiarly immobile one, not least because of the difficulties involved in buying and selling property. If the process could be made easier, people might be more inclined to follow the work rather than sit in the home they struggled to buy, waiting for yet another new call centre to be built.

There is still enormous scope for innovation in the financial services sector. The response to Prudential's Egg account has shown the public's appetite for new products if effectively marketed, and, in that case, also offering an exceptionally good return.

Mr Stewart has been quietly winning customers for the Woolwich's Open Plan, which can combine a mortgage with a current account. Barclays' idiotical-

ly named b2 has, by comparison, failed to excite the punters.

The Woolwich under John Stewart is proving to be one of the more forward looking banks. It would not be surprising if, as inevitable consolidation looms, his bigger rivals begin to take more notice.

Accounting abuses die to live again

Promulgation of the drily titled Financial Reporting Standard 15 is a milestone in accounting. Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, argues that it deals with the last of the flagrant abuses that led to the board being set up in 1990.

No longer can companies revalue their properties in good times then claim in bad times that falls in market value are temporary. Many big names in retail must also get used to the idea that their premises depreciate, even if inflation and improvements keep their market value up. Watch out for much defensive talk about purely technical charges from next year.

Now the ASB has new issues

to ponder, such as accounting for derivatives and executive options. The world has also moved on for regulators.

Under Sir Bryan Carsberg the International Accounting Standards Committee has just rushed out its own set of standards to meet a deadline set by securities regulators. It caters for emerging nations and aims to create a passport for shares to be quoted round the world. Only America is resisting. These IASC standards might spread. The European Commission was persuaded not to have its own standard by being given a seat at the IASC. Now EU harmonisation on IASC standards is on the agenda. That sounds fine, except that they would re-open abuses, especially in takeovers, that we have just gone to such trouble to close.

It never rains...

IT MIGHT not be the obvious shop of choice for City folk in search of floor coverings but it seems that Allied Carpets customers are close followers of the stock market. According to the company, the bid talk that swirled around it recently deterred shoppers, contributing to the near-oblivion of first-half profits. Retailers are adept at finding excuses for poor performance but this is an imaginative new one, sure to be copied. When the weather cannot explain lousy sales, the City pages will now be cited.

Allied lays out recovery proposals

By ROBERT LEA

INVESTORS in Allied Carpets were yesterday given a six-point recovery plan by the beleaguered company's management who admitted that the business's worsening fortunes had not been helped by the directors taking "our eye off the ball".

The stock market was left unconvinced, however, as after it digested poor interim and even worse January sales figures, Allied shares slipped back to near their all-time lows, falling 54p to 384p.

The company reported half-year pre-tax profits for the period ended December 26 of just £59,000 on sales of £136 million. The previous year it made profits of £12.5 million before taking an exceptional charge of £3 million to cover its now infamous five-year sales accounting irregularities. It was this plus a trading warning last May that precipitated the crash in the shares which two years ago were at 320p after floating in 1996 at 215p.

The collapse in Allied's interim profits was put down to a mixture of the state of the UK

economy and to the number of takeover offers received — notably from Alchemy, the venture capitalist, which talked around an offer of 67p.

Ray Nethercott, managing director, said: "For four months at our busiest time of the year our time was taken up with these talks. They were hugely distracting. Yes, we took our eye off the ball."

Like-for-like sales were down 9 per cent in the period as, said the company, Allied's key customer base was preoccupied with fears of recession.

Allied said things did not improve in the January sales with a 13 per cent decline year-on-year, though February so far is showing 2 per cent growth.

Mr Nethercott's six-point plan to resuscitate the firm's fortunes will centre on further disposals of loss-making activities. It also includes proposals for eight store closures in the year with 11 relocations among its 210-strong portfolio.

Allied is paying a much-reduced interim dividend of 0.5p (2.75p).

E*Trade expands service

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER
IN NEW YORK

E*TRADE, the booming Internet broker, moved further into the territory of traditional brokerages when it gained approval to offer mutual fund services to its army of online traders.

The third-biggest online broker will have E*Trade-branded index funds that will be managed by Barclays Global Fund Advisors, according to filings with the US Securities & Exchange Commission.

Barclays will be paid most of the management fees E*Trade charges to manage the mutual funds. In an attempt to keep down costs, E*Trade said that only customers willing to have reports sent solely by e-mail would be able to invest in its mutual funds.

E*Trade has already expanded into bond trading, as well as mortgage and insurance information. Shares in E*Trade have more than doubled this year, although a recent computer glitch that affected some trades saw the shares fall 30 per cent in a few days.

RJB makes revised pay offer

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

HOPES of averting the first miners' strike in Britain for 15 years grew last night as it emerged that RJB, the country's largest coal producer, had gone back to union leaders with a revised pay offer.

Last week, a poll of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers showed 56 per cent in favour of industrial action after the company offered a five-year deal of inflation minus 1 per cent. While RJB confirmed that it had come back with a new offer, the company declined to elaborate.

RJB has been in talks with the UDM, which represents 4,500 colliery workers, all this week. The UDM plans to go on strike from next Monday. Union officials refused to comment on the new offer.

The more hardline National Union of Mineworkers, which represents 2,500 miners within RJB, has this week been voting on whether to take strike action. The results of that ballot will not be known until next month.

Northern troubles hit Slug & Lettuce

SHARES in Slug & Lettuce, the trendy pub operator, dived 12 per cent yesterday after the group gave warning of poor trading in the North of England (Dominic Walsh writes).

The news sent its shares 22p lower to 160p, valuing the 31-strong chain at just £22.8 million, and pub sector watchers immediately cited the company as a likely takeover target.

One analyst said: "They have a good brand which would be attractive to the likes of Whitbread. At the moment its bal-

ance sheet is under pressure, but the extra firepower of one of the big boys would solve that."

Although it lifted operating profits from continuing operations by 39 per cent to £1.24 million in the half year to November 27, its sites in Leeds, Nottingham, Manchester, York and Harrogate made a combined loss of £140,000.

After a slow start, like-for-like sales in the second quarter were 5 per cent up and had continued strongly. The interim dividend is held at 3.025p.

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Trains

Consumers must rely on themselves

Language is everything in matters of food. Debate on genetically modified foods has been dismissed as a "food scare" by those who wish it would go away. Consumers have again heard that heart-sinking phrase "there is no evidence", sometimes alarmingly modified to no clear, convincing or conclusive evidence. Ministers are unwise to claim that foodstuffs are "safe", a deeply unscientific term. Their dogmatic insistence that we rely on science, and therefore on evidence to disprove a proposition, is entirely logical. They have little alternative, other than to admit their own impotence retrospectively to those who voted them into office.

Britain has given up any national right to ban planting of GM crops or import of products made from them to the European Union. Even if it had not, the "right" would be limited in an open global economy. The EU, like any member of the World Trade Organisation, must take those decisions on scientific evidence.

Some planting of transgenic corn in Europe was agreed last year. Novartis, the Swiss group, and America's Monsanto await only the seemingly inevitable outcome of French legal challenges. Foods modified through biotechnology are also right at the top of the world's trade agenda. Last year the WTO ruled that the EU could not legitimately ban imports of American beef produced with bovine growth hormone. The EU has until May to comply.

Charles Barshelsky, America's aggressive Trade Representative, says she will not brook delay. The bizarre banana war, in which about £100 million of UK exports face being barred from their US markets, is just a rehearsal for beef. Last week American food authorities gave the go-ahead for irradiation of beef. It is sure to become another bone of contention.

Thanking in part, Monsanto lobbying, GM crops are the biggest trade issue. That emerges clearly from Congressional hearings on US-EU trade last July. The Transatlantic Agenda talks that were started in 1995 worked towards mutual recognition of standards in sectors such as telecoms, drugs and medical devices. America wants to extend this to food.

Last May the Transatlantic Economic Partnership was launched to pre-empt US/EU conflicts, thrash out key trade issues and foster agreements on the rest of the world. Food safety and biotechnology will also host a new WTO trade initiative this year, aiming at another round of liberalisation. America wants to "ensure that farmers can use safe, advanced scientific techniques, including biotechnology", Ms Barshelsky says. "We have a per-

sistent problem with Europe on trade in bio-engineered or genetically modified products." Others predict a trade war over the issue. America says trade restrictions should be based on scientific evidence. "There is an increasing tendency in Europe not to regard science as even relevant," the US Deputy Commerce Secretary argues. "It's sort of policy by public opinion." The case is hard to resist. Sectors where America maintains protection, such as shipping and air transport, rarely feature in trade talks. US priorities do. The chief one is to get a better deal for its own agriculture, which is phasing out subsidies and needs new markets to compensate. Already, a quarter of US corn, cotton and soya bean output is transgenic. At least, you may think. Britons or Europeans can decide on environmental grounds whether to grow transgenic crops. But even that will not easily be achieved by government dictat.



GRAHAM SEALJEANT

Trade in food needs to be more open, to unravel the web of subsidy and distortion that undermines development and cuts living standards. The main attraction of growing GM crops is that yields are higher, typically by 30 per cent. If

Americans plant more GM seeds but they are not allowed in Europe, then European farmers will become uncompetitive in a rising number of bulk crops.

Open trade in Europe or globally undermines national governments, the main focus of democracy, and our touching faith in them to fulfil our wishes. But it does lead to common testing of the quality and safety of traded goods, and that tends to raise standards.

People can still exercise collective power through market forces. Shoppers who remember reassurances about "no scientific evidence" while BSE was building up, can make their own choices. If a tide of mums take the trouble to go to Iceland, which rejects foods made from GM ingredients, bigger chains will have to follow. Organically grown foods are the fastest-growing sector, even though

Costs mean patients need to take control of their health



SIR RICHARD SYKES says we need to decide how much we are willing to spend and invest before we debate how we carve up the 'pie'

The threat to the public purse of so-called "lifestyle" medicines such as Viagra has brought the reality of rationing in the health service out into the open. But it has also handed the Government what ought to be heralded as a welcome opportunity to examine the underlying beliefs that British citizens have about the NHS and its funding.

At long last we have the opportunity for open public debate on these issues, oriented around the questions of how much, and for what, society is prepared to pay, and how. But it is important, too, that the direction and focus of the debate are clear and fundamental, and are not driven by specific high-profile and "difficult" cases.



The issue of "lifestyle" medicines such as Viagra is only one factor pressurising the system

Thus, the lasting legacy of Frank Dobson's interventions over Viagra could be the fostering of a critical reassessment of the funding and prioritisation of healthcare. He has chosen an interesting case. The decision to restrict access to an impotence drug on the NHS to certain categories of sufferers will seem reasonable to some, who may sympathise with the argument for limiting the availability of Viagra for the purpose of "protecting the resources of the NHS to deal with other patients, for example with cancer, heart disease and mental health problems" (NHS press release, January 21).

But setting the hype around Viagra aside, what are the real issues to be examined? The first question to ask is: how much do we want to spend on healthcare in the future in absolute terms and in comparison with other demands on the exchequer? Future demand levels - driven by population growth, demographic change, patient expectations and technological developments - will probably require spending on healthcare to be much higher than it is today. There is nothing to dictate that the latent demand for healthcare in Britain should be satisfied by the current

spending allocation of just 7 per cent of GDP. People may have to pay more for their healthcare - but they may also be willing to do so. It is a familiar refrain that Britain spends less in this area as a proportion of GDP than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development average. This is only a satisfactory statistic if you see healthcare merely as an item of consumption, rather than of investment. But healthcare spending not only has popular appeal, it has economic logic as an investment. The economy benefits from such things as reduced time off work for patients and their carers and increased productivity of the labour force as a whole. Very often the use of medicines results in savings elsewhere in the healthcare system; a good example of this is HIV, where fewer hospital beds are needed owing to the success of double and triple combination treatments.

Not should we overlook the contribution of investment in healthcare towards direct and indirect employment. There is therefore an important debate to be had about overall levels of healthcare expenditure in the UK. It is inappropriate to talk about how to divide up the "pie" without first discussing how big it should be. In the NHS there is little connection between how much healthcare individuals receive, and how much they pay for it; young, healthy taxpayers bear much of the cost of healthcare for the sick and, on the whole, the better-off pay for the poor. The big flaws in this socially equitable system are the lack of transparency of the costs involved, and long-standing expectations of a "free" NHS, when it is patently not the case that healthcare - particularly innovative healthcare - comes "for free".

A second key issue is the revolution under way in medicine, science and technology, which will transform the face of healthcare over the next decade. As a result, I believe that

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE NHS

R&D is so expensive. All these developments, and others, will, without doubt, change the economics of healthcare. However, because of changing paradigms in medical treatment, it is not necessarily the case that discoveries emerging from this revolution will result automatically in more expensive healthcare, as some would claim. This is not to say that the problem of funding will necessarily go away if we just sit tight - the more healthcare interventions that science brings us, the more will be demanded. Gross expenditure may increase, but unit costs may steady, and returns on expenditure - when viewed as investment - would go up. In this way a constructive debate about future healthcare expenditure can take place without having to assume costs will inexorably spiral.

So we can see that the issue of so-called "lifestyle" medicines is by no means the only factor pressurising the system: much new technology will improve treatments for serious and life-threatening conditions. Furthermore, the question of what constitutes "lifestyle" is not clear-cut, and raises ethical issues. When does lifestyle become "quality of life"?

Is a hip replacement operation to improve the mobility of an arthritic sufferer a question of lifestyle or quality of life? Sufferers for whom severe obesity or influenza are life-threatening must be able to access new medicines for such disorders. In a caring society, less severely affected patients surely also deserve to receive treatment.

One effect of relatively low levels of expenditure has been the rationing of healthcare through waiting lists, "postcode prescribing" and other devices. In place of rationing, it

Insecurity?

I CONFESS I have never been too sure what the Securities Institute, the somewhat trade body for the City, is actually for. Now Clive Sinclair-Poulton, a long-time maverick in the Square Mile, seems to share my doubts. He has caused a row by writing to the *Financial Times* claiming that the one time the institute was called to do anything, it promptly fired the caller.

In the mid-90s Sinclair-Poulton was on the institute's public affairs committee, which asked members what the role of the trade body should be. "The majority of people who responded to the survey said, yes, we should be much more pro-active and aggressive in marketing the City," he tells me. "We came up with a business plan. The next thing I knew, the committee was closed down - I was never told why."

"I think there's a bit of a perception problem here," the institute replies. Why disband the committee but not tell anyone why? "I don't know. That was badly handled."



SO WHAT was Brian Basham, former PR man to British Airways, doing lunching with Lord King yesterday? I thought relations between him and the airline had been severed after the Virgin "dirty tricks" disaster. "I have lunch with him regularly," says Basham. "I've never, ever fallen out with him. I admire him beyond all men - well, almost."

Basham insists his quarrel was with Sir Colin Marshall at BA, after the airline capitulated rather than fight on. "He inserted my name in an apology."

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

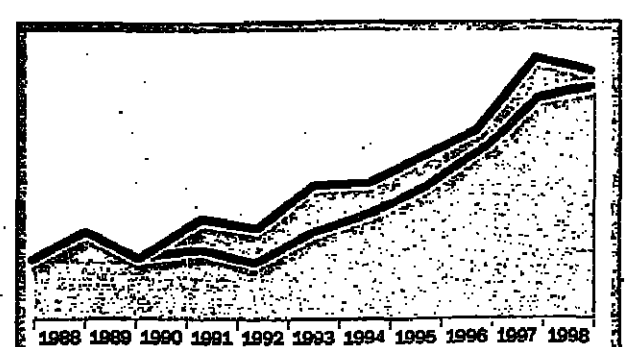
A DOUBLE booking last night for the directors of Leicester City Football Club, because the local council meeting to decide whether the club's new 40,000-seat stadium should go ahead started at 5.30pm. The club's Worthington Cup semi-final against Sunderland kicked off two hours later.

The council meeting is vital; the match is, well, just another match. I suggest that directors should miss just this one. For some reason my informant looks appalled at the idea.

Chart buster

MICHAEL STODDART, chairman of Electra Investments

MARTIN WALLER, *city diary@the-times.co.uk*



In the early 1990s, "There was never a concluded agreement," insist the Wharf's lawyers.

AS CANARY WHARF trudges towards a spring flotation, I hear that a long-awaited legal action may finally reach the courts later this year. The Wharf is being sued for £12 million by Martin Sorrell's WPP, which claims the developer failed to honour a deal to provide space there.

The site in question at Canary Wharf went to the Financial Services Authority instead. The dispute is made even more bitter because Ogilvy & Mather, one of WPP's two main agencies, is a long-time tenant at the Wharf and supported it through the financial collapse

Call centres get hooked up to the Internet



THE ICE BOX

FEW companies integrate their corporate home pages on the Internet with their call centre operations. There is a growing belief in the IT world, however, that by merging the two, companies can communicate much more effectively with their customers.

According to a report out this week from Datamonitor, the market research group, there will be an astonishing 12,600 call centres in Europe by the end of this year, growing to 17,900 by 2003. Although only about 3.2 per cent of call centres are likely to be "web-enabled" this year, that figure is set to grow to nearly 19 per cent by 2003.

The technology behind web-enabled call centres is fairly straightforward. In most cases it means that a consumer can ask a sales representative to call them by clicking an icon on a company's website.

Companies such as Royalblue, which produces the kind of software needed to operate these services, say a surprising number of customers choose to be called. This is because consumers feel more in control if they can browse a website at their leisure, then decide if they want to know more. It also saves them from having to wait in a telephone queueing system before a sales rep becomes free.

Customers can also contact call centre staff - to complain about services or inquire about products - simply by e-mailing them. This works particularly well for complicated inquiries that may take some time to look into.

There was a theory, popular a few years ago, that the Internet would bring about the demise of the call centre. However, many now believe that the two technologies actually complement each other. After all, by merging call centres and Internet sites, companies can humanise their corporate websites.

By introducing this kind of integrated technology, companies can also prepare for the future. It is only a matter of time, for example, before consumers conduct online video conferences, instead of telephone calls, with sales reps.

NEW subscribers to digital television are not traditional "early adopters" - the advertising term for people who always rush to buy the latest gadgets - but have seen digital as an excuse to finally start paying for sports and children's channels.

This is the conclusion of a report by CIA MediaLab, the market research group, a week after BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, reported a strong uptake in digital subscribers.

CIA said that many parents had seen digital as a reason to give in to "pester power" from children to sign-up to pay-television channels.

CHRIS AYRES

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Deutsche Bank reports big rise in profits

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany's largest bank, yesterday reported higher than expected profits for 1998 and hinted that it had increased loan loss provisions to shield itself from heightened risk in emerging markets.

The bank said that pre-tax profits rose to DM17.9 billion (£2.5 billion) from DM12 billion in 1997, boosted by a DM13.2 billion special dividend payment from Daimler-Benz following the automotive group's merger with Chrysler.

Deutsche did not report net income but analysts estimate that based on a 50 per cent tax rate, net profit was DM4 billion, up from DM1.019 billion. Forecasts ranged from DM3.2 billion to DM3.5 billion. Yesterday's results were preliminary and Deutsche will report detailed 1998 earnings on March 18.

Operating profit was unchanged at DM4.3 billion, catching analysts' forecasts of a drop after market turmoil hammered third-quarter earnings so severely that it only narrowly avoided a bottom-line loss for the period.

It did not say how high its risk provisions were but analysts said the statement indicated that provisions rose steeply in the final quarter after having already increased 40.4 per cent to DM1.025 billion in the first nine months.

Analysts said the steep rise in pre-tax profit may indicate Deutsche booked extraordinary income from share disposals in the final quarter as part of a plan to shed some of its DM40 billion of investments.

The results followed a higher than expected 47 per cent jump in net profit reported by Commerzbank last week and reinforced the view that German bank earnings recovered in line with financial markets in the final quarter.



Ups and downs: Tom Mulcahy, chief executive, has seen unusual movements in Allied Irish Bank's share price amid recent merger speculation

Trading in shares of Allied Irish Banks under scrutiny

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Stock Exchange is investigating volatile trading in shares in Allied Irish Banks, it emerged yesterday.

The bank said it had been approached by the exchange after unusual movements in its share price after merger speculation. Share dealers were responding to rumours of a £15-a-share bid, with Deutsche Bank and Lloyds TSB tipped as possible bidders.

AIB refused to comment on the bid speculation, while De-

lan McSweeney, chief financial officer, said he did not believe that there was an orchestrated campaign at work.

The shares fell 57p to £10.75, compared with a recent high of £12.62. The company, the shares of which are listed in London, Dublin and New York, is capitalised at about £11 billion.

Yesterday AIB became the first Irish company to report annual profits of more than £1 billion. Its 1998 pre-tax profits rose 42 per cent to £1.826 billion (£712 million). A final

dividend of 1r14p a share makes a total of 1r22p, up 25 per cent.

Deposits at the bank grew from £131.5 billion to £135.3 billion, while loans grew from £125.5 billion to £127.9 billion.

Mr McSweeney said he expected to maintain the group's cost/income ratio at 55 per cent. The ratio is in line with a number of other London-listed banks, but considerably higher than Lloyds TSB, which has a ratio of 45 per cent.

Tom Mulcahy, chief execu-

tive, said: "Performance in the buoyant economy of the Republic of Ireland generated significant volume growth, with loans higher by 26 per cent and deposits up by 13 per cent. Other businesses to perform particularly well include AIB Finance and Leasing, Treasury and Goodbody stockbrokers."

He said the bank now provided a full range of euro products to customers and was positioned to benefit from the opportunities the euro environment will bring. The bank said that it expected to spend a fur-

ther £14 million on integrating the euro over the next three years, while the year 2000 project is expected to cost a further £16 million.

Gary Kennedy, finance director, said the Irish Republic, which contributed £196 million to the 1998 pre-tax profit figure, would continue to drive growth despite forecasts for economic easing. "There are challenges out there. The Irish economy is not growing at the same rate as previous years, even though it is still forecast to grow buoyantly," he said.

RSA launches £290m Australian bid

By MARIANNE CURPHEY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE — one of the unsuccessful bidders in the auction for Guardian Royal Exchange, the composite insurer — has launched a £290 million (£290 million) takeover bid for Tyndall

Australia, a financial services company.

RSA also announced that it was selling Sun Direct, its German direct underwriting operation, to Neckura Holding, a subsidiary of Nationwide Insurance Group, the US company, for about £7 million.

Tyndall's board has recom-

mended that shareholders accept the offer, although some analysts suggested that another bidder might emerge and trigger an auction. Allianz of Germany was named yesterday as a possible rival bidder.

Australia's insurance sector has seen a lot of rationalisation recently with medium-sized

players looking for ways to grow. RSA claimed the takeover would create the fourth-largest player in Australian insurance and financial services, with a 10 per cent market share.

Tyndall deals in life insurance, pensions, fund management and trustee business in Australia and New Zealand.

RSA has offered A\$2.80 a share, which represents a premium of 16 per cent to Tyndall's average share price over the past three months.

After the Australian market closed Tyndall's board issued a statement recommending the bid "in the absence of a higher offer".

Shorewood leaves Field to Chesapeake

SHOREWOOD PACKAGING has conceded defeat in its attempt to take over Field Group, the UK designer and manufacturer of packages and labels for the drinks, tobacco and confectionery sectors. This leaves the way open for a £218 million bid by Chesapeake, a rival US packaging company. The offer, of 360p a share, was announced late on Friday. It is 10p higher than Shorewood's bid and is recommended by the board.

Marc Shore, chairman and chief executive of Shorewood, said yesterday that to continue to pursue Field "would require a purchase price which would be dilutive to our earnings and not in the best interests of our shareholders". He said Shorewood would continue to pursue acquisition opportunities in the UK and continental Europe. Chesapeake's latest all-cash offer values Field at almost 60 per cent more than its market value before any takeover talks were announced. It employs 2,500 people at factories in Nottingham, Bradford, Portsmouth, East Kilbride, Newcastle and Thatcham in Berkshire.

Sidlaw receives offer

SHARES of Sidlaw Group rose 23p to 137p after the flexible packaging company said that it had received a takeover approach. The suitor's identity was not disclosed. Sidlaw, based in Edinburgh, lists Mars, Cadbury, KP and PepsiCo among its clients. At yesterday's closing price it is worth about £95 million. Its shares have risen steadily since December when they touched a low of 64p. Sidlaw was hit by losses in oil services in the mid-1990s but has since sold the division. In the year to September pre-tax profits were £7 million on sales of £154.5 million.

Thistle chairman quits

THISTLE HOTELS is to seek an external non-executive chairman after the resignation yesterday of Rodney Price, who steered the group through its 1996 flotation. The departure of Mr Price and Paul Collins, who has stepped down as a non-executive director, had been expected after their recent resignation from the board of Thistle's biggest shareholder, Brierley Investments. Brierley has nominated Rupert Morley and Tan Sri Quek Leng Chan to replace them on the Thistle board. Andrew Bould, chief operating officer, has been promoted to the board.

Reflec rescue placing

REFLEC, the specialty chemical company, revealed plans for a rescue share issue yesterday saying that if shareholders did not back the proposal it would have no alternative other than to file for receivership. The company said it was seeking to raise £2.54 million after expenses from a placing of 264 million shares at 1p. In the interim it is drawing down a previously agreed £300,000 loan from International Pipeline Consultancy as bridging finance. After the announcement of the placing, which is not underwritten, Reflec's shares fell 1p to 2p.

AB Airlines dips

SHARES in AB Airlines, the independent carrier, dived yesterday after it said that it has been forced to pull routes on which it operates because of the cut-throat competition within the industry. The company is discontinuing flights to Berlin from Gatwick and terminating its joint venture with Aer Lingus, which flies to Shannon in Ireland, blaming the "number of airlines which continue to offer heavily discounted fares in an attempt to gain market share". The shares fell 12p yesterday to close at 35p.

Salvesen warning

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN, the logistics group, delivered a nasty surprise to shareholders yesterday ahead of the end of its financial year next month, saying that profits are likely to come in 10 per cent lower after problems on a new contract with J Sainsbury. Salvesen had set up a chilled food operation at a Sainsbury's site but failed to predict the volumes going through the facility. The company said that costs covering extra staff and vehicles would lead to a £3 million charge. Analysts expect Salvesen full-year profits to come in at £32 million.

US home starts leap

CONSTRUCTION starts of new homes in America soared in January to their highest level in more than a decade, the Commerce Department said yesterday. Total starts jumped 3.8 per cent in January to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.804 million, following an upwardly revised 5.1 per cent rise to 1.738 million in December. January's building rate was the highest since 1.833 million recorded in December of 1986. The rush of January housing starts was concentrated in apartments, where starts shot ahead 13.9 per cent to 410,000.

Railtrack bond issue

RAILTRACK GROUP, the railway infrastructure company, is issuing £400 million of exchangeable bonds maturing in 2009 in the international capital markets. The bonds will be underwritten by a syndicate led by Warburg Dillon Read. The underwriters initially expected to raise £350 million but increased the issue to meet demand. The proceeds of the issue will be used by Railtrack to continue its capital expenditure programme. The bonds will be exchangeable for Railtrack ordinary shares. The shares fell 7p to £14.59 yesterday.

Freeport advances

FREEPORT LEISURE, the owner and operator of factory outlet retail villages, lifted pre-tax profits to £3.03 million from £1.41 million in the half year to December 26. Earnings rose to 6.16p a share from 4.61p. The company does not pay an interim dividend. The company's new outlet shopping mall at Take, near Stoke-on-Trent, opens next month, while retail villages at Castleford and Braintree are due to open in late 1999. Sean Collidge, chief executive, said the current development programme was running to budget.

Growth at Dobbies

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES lifted pre-tax profits to £1.4 million from £1.01 million in the year to October 31. Earnings were 18.27p per share, up from 17.22p. A final dividend of 3.35p a share makes a total of 5p, up 11 per cent. Sales were 31 per cent higher at £11.1 million, despite adverse weather conditions in the spring and summer. Shares of Dobbies, which trade on the AIM, rose 5p to 265p yesterday.

30p THE TIMES

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<http://www.the-times.co.uk> CHANGING TIMES

Confident Golden Vale sees 32% rise

By SAIED SHAH

GOLDEN VALE, the food company based in the Republic of Ireland, announced a 32 per cent rise in pre-tax profit for 1998 and said it was on course for further growth this year.

The company said earnings this year would be bolstered by a full-year contribution from recently acquired Rye Valley Foods and Dairyborn Foods, savings from a rationalisation plan, and a solid performance in the existing consumer products businesses.

For the year ended December 31, 1998, pre-tax profit was £27.1 million (£18.7 million), up from £20.5 million in the previous year. Turnover was £736 million (£717 million), before an exceptional restructuring charge of £24.1 million. The company incurred a goodwill amortisation charge of £500,000 because of a change in accounting standards.

Adjusted earnings per share were £0.133 (£0.1025). The final dividend of £0.251 per share makes a total dividend of £0.383, up 11.4 per cent from last time.

Golden Vale announced that it will invest £8 million to expand and modernise its processed cheese facility in Coleraine, Northern Ireland. The investment, supported by a £1.6 million grant from the Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland, will create 77 jobs over the next five years, to bring the plant's workforce to more than 300.

Active fund managers too risky, says survey

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

INVESTORS who entrust their money to active fund managers are taking an unnecessary amount of risk and would be better off in tracker funds, a survey has revealed.

According to WM Company, the Edinburgh fund performance analyst, few actively run unit trusts consistently outperform the stock market.

In any five-year period investors in an active UK income and growth unit trust had only a one-in-four chance of beating the returns of the FTSE All-share index. Active funds that hit the top quartile were unlikely to stay there for long, WM found. Indeed, once fund managers' costs and charges are stripped out, only one of the 46 unit trusts in the survey had managed to beat the stock market index clearly in the past 20 years.

But, in trying to beat the index, active fund managers took more risk and produced a more volatile performance as a result. This did not produce better returns, leaving WM to conclude that investors were not being properly rewarded for the risk they were taking.

Virgin Direct, which commissioned the study, said the findings were the final nail in the coffin for many active fund managers. However, critics of trackers believe that as more money goes into passive funds more room will be left for good active managers to add value.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Ritual is taxing our patience

Douglas Fairbairn has a question for modern-day Chancellors: is your Budget really necessary?

Budgets are supposedly great parliamentary occasions. And everyone involved does their best to make them so. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has himself photographed with wife, dog or jobseeker, according to personal preference.

Television and radio stations clear their schedules, and greet the news that boozes and fags have gone up with such surprise that you might think that it had never happened before. Trees die by the millions as the information is released, regurgitated and commented on.

Is this really worth all the effort? Have Budgets — as events, as legislative hooks and as a way of economic life — outlived their usefulness?

We have Budgets because we subscribe to a series of polite fictions, some of them older than others, and all of them equally useless. The oldest of these fictions is the idea that taxes are annual, and that the Government should be made to justify each year its case for removing the taxpayer's money. This notion is nice — romantic, even — but it

is rubbish. Taxes are not going to go away. I believe that the annual round of Budget and Finance Bill, mixed up as it is with the presentation of party policy, is actually damaging the quality of tax legislation.

It is certainly doing nothing for the quality of parliamentary accountability, either. Anyone who has read recent Finance Bill debates will know that genuine investigation of technical measures is a rarity. And as for MPs defying the whip...

Another longstanding assumption is that Budgets are when you find out what is going to happen to tax and spending. Well, this may have been the case in the past, but the surprise element of this event is diminishing every year. The Pre-Budget Report is a much more thorough affair than the old Autumn Statements ever were, and the present Government has fixed its public spending commitments for three years, anyway. It has also undertaken not to change the headline rates of either income tax or corporation tax for the rest of this Parliament. What is there left



Douglas Fairbairn is worried about the quality of tax law

for a politician to talk about? This brings me to the final Budget myth. This is the one that says that the Budget is about the economy. It is not. The Government does not run the economy. The economy is "run" by a combination of

financial institutions, global companies, investor sentiment and sheer chance. The Chancellor has power only at the microeconomic margins. So, should we abandon the yearly Budget, the archaic supposition that what the

Chancellor says matters, and modernise the event? I think that we should at least recognise reality. We have an extremely complex tax system that is policed on the basis of occasional amateur oversight. Technical changes of great sophistication are shoehorned into a procedure designed to test the supposition that Mr Pitt needs another sixpence to fight Boney.

We should decouple the vast majority of tax measures, and have a separate technical procedure. Since the Government is rightly committed to open consultation, such a procedure could allow MPs to call witnesses and to take representations over a much longer period, resulting in — I would hope — better legislation.

Would this not be much less fun? Perhaps. However, even with a technical Tax Changes Bill, we could still have a yearly statement dealing with those essentially political tax changes to income tax rates. I doubt that any Chancellor would willingly give up his day in the spotlight, even if he has got nothing much to say.

The author is national head of tax with Ernst & Young

□ The Budget is on Tuesday, March 9

US starts back-to-basics attack on lax reporting

THERE has been a tendency in this country for people to sort out poor corporate governance by looking inwards. Internal auditors are asked to take on more. There is much talk of risk management. Even directors have sometimes been asked whether they should not put their names to a statement saying how effective internal controls are.

This focus is useful. But it has tended to move the spotlight away from the external auditors, which is not necessarily a very good thing. Audit firms have, coincidentally no doubt, used this period of relative ease to change the nature of an external audit on to a more theoretical basis that searches for weaknesses in risk management, for example, rather than doing the old-fashioned detailed work that used to cost them so much in time and staff.

But the pendulum may be swinging back. Certainly the latest regulatory efforts in the US suggest so. Regulators in America are angry. They see external auditors as having allowed all sorts of poor accounting and lax corporate reporting to burgeon. They argue that the firms have moved too far from the basics of external auditing. The firms, when they have a moment spare from selling all manner of extraordinarily sophisticated extra services to clients, argue that this is not so.

This does not sit well with the idea that America has the most stringent financial reporting rules and regime in the world.

Stung by such stunts on the nation's reputation, Arthur Levitt, chairman of the all-powerful Securities and Exchange Commission, set up what they call a "blue ribbon" panel last October to report on how the audit committee process could be strengthened.

Audit committees were once seen as relatively comfortable places. But it is now obvious, particularly since the panel has now reported its findings, that they are going to adapt to become the front line in not just seeing that directors of companies and their external auditors behave properly but in being seen to be putting their reputation on the line in doing so. It is a far cry from the amiable Hampel Committee approach to corporate governance over here, which hardly amounted to more than a quick tidy up with a feather duster. And we know what the Hampel response, and the average UK company's response to the US proposals would be. It would be hands thrown up in the air and an argument that business was yet

again to be ensnared by red tape and rules that would derail efforts at wealth creation.

But, if anything, the US approach would help. It is founded on people stating what should happen and then reporting back on whether it did happen. For example, it suggests that the audit committee of each listed company should adopt a formal written charter, to be approved by the full board of directors, setting out responsibilities, structure and process. Each year it would have to be reviewed on a formal basis and, more important, a statement would have to go to the annual shareholders' meeting as a narrative describing what the audit committee had been doing. At a stroke, it makes an audit committee formally accountable.

The report also deals with the central issue of auditor independence. Its proposals would give the audit committee a clearly defined role for evaluating whether an auditor is truly independent. This would involve, among other things, a formal statement from the auditors explaining all relationships between the auditor and the company, and the audit committee would be "responsible for actively engaging in a dialogue with the auditor" over any relationships that it felt might impinge on independence.

It is also suggested that a formal discussion be published "about the quality, not just the acceptability" of the company's financial reporting and insists that "this requirement should be written in a way to encourage open, frank discussion".

In a week in which the Accounting Standards Board has moved to clamp down on company directors' fanciful statements on property revaluation, this sort of approach is welcome.

Finally, the American report suggests something that the UK Stock Exchange has repeatedly shied away from. It suggests that the external auditor carry out a review of each quarter's financial reporting.

This measure would create a greater continuity in the external auditor's work. All this would force external auditors back into a position at the heart of responsibility for the quality and the reliability of financial reporting.

And if UK companies complain that such measures are too onerous, they should take it up with the global chiefs of Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers. They were both on the committee.



ROBERT BRUCE

The client they couldn't avoid

FURTHER ironies have emerged in the great humiliation of the old firm of Coopers & Lybrand over its feeble efforts to audit Robert Maxwell's empire.

Once upon a time, the firm of Deloitte was approached by Maxwell and asked whether it would like to become the auditor of his many businesses. Tactfully, but firmly, it declined.

Then, of course, in a very complicated three-way merger, the firm merged with what was then Coopers & Lybrand and is now the oddly welded name of Price-

waterhouseCoopers. The key to this is that all these blameless Deloitte partners joined up with Coopers in 1990.

Maxwell went overboard a year later. It is not obvious at present whether the old Deloitte hands still within the firm are liable for shockingly poor work on a client that they personally would not have touched with a bargepole. All this may explain the tight-lipped nature of Peter Hazell, who, as managing partner of the merged firm, was wheeled out to take the rap. He, of course, is

one of the old Deloitte partners.

Blade runner

NO WONDER Scotland is in such belligerent mood over devolving itself from the dastardly English.

Take the plight of David Spence, this year's president of the Scots ICA and who is given, on the right occasion, to wearing kilt and full kit. His wife, justly proud of his role, presented him with a new skean-dhu for his year of office.

This, for readers living in the Home Counties, is a

small knife and is an essential part of the kit.

Heading up to Edinburgh in order to fulfil one of his many engagements, Spence was stopped at airport security. The X-ray showed — did it not — a knife in his luggage. A knife is an offensive weapon. Security officials concluded that Spence was about to hijack the plane and demand safe passage to somewhere like Uist.

Spence protested that the worst that he was going to do with the knife was stuff it down his sock at a dinner in Edinburgh. But security in-

sisted. The knife had to travel in the hold. And on arrival up north, they revealed that they had lost it.

Britannia's rules

AMERICANS are always under attack for being a rule-based business community. But they reacted with amazement at the mass of rules and regulations unveiled this week to allow UK partnerships to become limited liability partnerships. Americans achieved the right to similar status several years ago. "All we had to do was change our letterheads," said one baffled New York partner.

ROBERT BRUCE

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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18 1999

Shares on the retreat

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1189 | 1123 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1190 | 1124 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1191 | 1125 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1192 | 1126 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1193 | 1127 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1194 | 1128 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1195 | 1129 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1196 | 1130 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1197 | 1131 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1198 | 1132 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1199 | 1133 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |
| 1200 | 1134 | Adm-MEMO | 1000% | -22% | 3.2 |

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

| | | | | | |
|---------|------|--------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 332 | 225 | Am Steel Gns | 281 | 3 | 5.1 |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company</ | | |

BUILDING MATERIALS

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1 | | | | | | |

CHEMICALS

| | | | | | | |
|------|----|-----------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 1991 | 77 | Altogether & Ws | 100% | ... | 8.9 | 16.6 |
| 1992 | 77 | Altogether & Ws | 100% | ... | 8.9 | 16.6 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | Amersham Genl | 219 | ... | 3.5 | 1.7 |
| 118 | 50 | | | | | |

CONSTRUCTION

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| | | | | | | |

DISTRIBUTORS

| | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 169 | Apco Inc. | 150 | 143 | 3 |
| 170 | Adco & Harvey | 110 | 110 | 0 |
| 67 | 46 ¹ Alcan Labs | 54 ¹ | ... | ... |
| 3 | 3 Aqueducts | 14 ¹ | ... | ... |
| 45 | 100 AES Bt Eng | 1 ¹ | 73 | 11 |
| 309 | 309 Ess Group | 375 | 68 | 8 |
| 41 | 41 ¹ Baynes (Chemist) | 58 ¹ | 55 | 9 |
| 304 | 304 Baymco | 402 ¹ | ... | ... |
| 16 | 6 ¹ Bencord Gs | 8 ¹ | 3.8 | ... |
| 65 | 65 ¹ Btl Flange | 76 ¹ + 3 ¹ | 74 | 8 |
| 25 | 25 ¹ Calmar | 280 - 28 | 68 | 10 |
| 119 | 119 ¹ Canstar | 121 ¹ | 45 | 9 |
| 54 | 119 ¹ Canstar | 21 | 145 | 6 |
| 19 | 19 ¹ Core (OC) | ... | 71 | 7 |
| 96 | 96 ¹ Eng Metals | 158 ¹ | 36 | 7 |
| 125 | 125 ¹ Diamond Eht | 111 ¹ | 142 | 5 |

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1 | | | | | | |

ELECTRICITY

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 602 | 399 | Broken Hill | 450 | 10% | 4.4 |
| 591 | 3 | Brenbury Inc | 10 | 0% | 9.2 |
| 575 | 251 | Brinley Inc | 360 | 3% | 4.5 |
| 277 | 177 | Lo | 194 | 83 | 6.6 |
| 611 | 335 | Brl Amer Tob | 565 | 3% | 4.1 |
| 473 | 301 | Callcenter | 400 | 10 | 6.6 |
| 411 | 335 | Callcenter | 400 | 10 | 6.6 |
| 325 | 235 | Health Welfare | 401 | 13 | 4.0 |
| 611 | 335 | Assessment Tls | 565 | 3% | 4.1 |
| 335 | 235 | Atlantic Rich | 400 | 10 | 6.6 |
| 107 | 107 | Lyngby Asset | 5 | 0 | 6.1 |
| 591 | 3 | Shelley | 10 | 0 | 9.2 |
| 395 | 158 | Suez Pacific | 245 | -1 | 4.9 |
| 591 | 3 | Shelley | 10 | 0 | 9.2 |
| 575 | 251 | Woodward | 320 | 2 | 8.1 |
| 575 | 251 | Woodward | 320 | 2 | 8.1 |
| 575 | 251 | Woodward | 320 | 2 | 8.1 |
| 575 | 251 | Woodward | 320 | 2 | 8.1 |
| 575 | 251 | Woodward | 320 | 2 | 8.1 |
| 135 | 303 | Assessment Tls | 485 | 3 | 3.8 |

| ELECTRICITY | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 925 | 391 | Electricity | 510 | -30 | 3.4 | 2.1 |
| 925 | 391 | Electricity | 510 | -30 | 3.4 | 2.1 |
| 925 | 391 | Electricity | 510 | -30 | 3.4 | 2.1 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| 754 | 310 | Bt Energy | 645 | -12% | 2.9 | 3.0 |

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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ENGINEERING

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

INSURANCE

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1 | | | | | | |

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------|--------|-----|------|------|
| 56 | 29% Widely | 45 | ... | 6.8 | 22.4 | |
| ENGINEERING, VEHICLES | | | | | | |
| 56: | 67 | Advent | - 14% | ... | 5.3 | 11.0 |
| 23 | 115 | Airflow System | 128% | ... | 7.8 | 11.8 |
| 81 | 333 | Avion Position | 567% | ... | 4.8 | 10.0 |
| 46 | 140 | Beckson | 181% + | 3 | 5.2 | 6.2 |
| | | | | | 3.8 | 11.2 |

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----|----|-------|
| 455 | Adco | 152 | 22 | 6.8 |
| 456 | Affiliated & Health | 85 | | 8.5 |
| 457 | AgriStar | 100 | | 10.0 |
| 458 | Alamo | 100 | | 41.89 |
| 459 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 460 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 461 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 462 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 463 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 464 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 465 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 466 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 467 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 468 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 469 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 470 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 471 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 472 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 473 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 474 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 475 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 476 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 477 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 478 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 479 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 480 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 481 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 482 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 483 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 484 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 485 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 486 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 487 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 488 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 489 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 490 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 491 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 492 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 493 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 494 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 495 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 496 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 497 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 498 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 499 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |
| 500 | Alamo Gas | 212 | | 41.89 |

HEALTHCARE

| | | | |
|-----|-----|----|------|
| 33 | 23% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 219 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 135 | 4% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 683 | 2% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 151 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 144 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
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| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
| 200 | 1% | 26 | 20.9 |
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HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

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| 165 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 166 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 167 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 168 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 169 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 170 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 171 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 172 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 173 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 174 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 175 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 176 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 177 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 178 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 179 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 180 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 181 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 182 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 183 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 184 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 185 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 186 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 187 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 188 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
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| 190 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 191 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 192 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 193 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 194 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 195 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 196 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 197 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 198 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 199 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |
| 200 | Alta | 71% | 1 | 37 | 18.9 |

MEDIA

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 30 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 31 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 32 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 33 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 34 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 35 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 36 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 37 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 38 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 39 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 40 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 41 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 42 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 43 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 44 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 45 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 46 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 47 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 48 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 49 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 50 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 51 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 52 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 53 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 54 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 55 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 56 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 57 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 58 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 59 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 60 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 61 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 62 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 63 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 64 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 65 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 66 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 67 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 68 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 69 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 70 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 71 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 72 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 73 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 74 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 75 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 76 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 77 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 78 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 79 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 80 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 81 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 82 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 83 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 84 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 85 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 86 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 87 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 88 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 89 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 90 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 91 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 92 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 93 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 94 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 95 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 96 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 97 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 98 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 99 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |
| 100 | 48 | 1 | 1999/98 | High | Low | Company |

MINING

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|----|--------------|-----|-----|----|------|
| 76 | Wood (Debit) | 89% | ... | 79 | 73 |
| 75 | Yodyette | 61 | ... | 79 | 16.5 |

| INSURANCE | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|------|------|------|------|--|
| 476 | Allied Zeds | 162% | ... | 12 | 0.6 | |
| 3143X | Am Geny | 354% | + 25 | 34 | 8.3 | |
| 3021A | Am Corp | 302% | + 59 | 19 | 6.4 | |
| 139 | Amco | 146% | ... | 16 | 2.8 | |
| 103 | Berkley & Pls | 170 | ... | 8 | 12.5 | |
| 34 | Burlington | 30 | ... | 10.4 | ... | |
| 110 | Chubb | 100 | ... | 17 | 6.4 | |
| 171 | CLM Impact | 111% | ... | 14.3 | 7.2 | |
| 100 | Chubb | 100 | ... | 10.4 | ... | |
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| 100 | Chubb | | | | | |

OIL & GAS

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|-----------------------|--------|-----|----|-----|
| 1429/1291 | 1633/1 | 65 | 65 | 165 |
| 1999/98 | 4894/5 | 537 | 54 | 54 |
| 1999/98 | 1087 | 0 | 18 | 19 |
| 59 New London Cap | 10 | 0 | 97 | 103 |
| 100 Southwest | 10 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 67 Octopus | 79 | 0 | 72 | 72 |
| 39 Proteus Trust | 134/4 | 0 | 37 | 20 |
| 1999/98 | 1087 | 0 | 18 | 19 |
| 139/98 | 15 | 0 | 36 | 36 |
| 433 Burrell & Son Ltd | 597 | 0 | 64 | 65 |
| 147-3 Jarrow Place | 777 | 0 | 72 | 72 |
| 163 Star Street | 39/4 | 0 | 37 | 37 |
| 1999/98 | 1087 | 0 | 18 | 19 |
| 110 SWB | 548/4 | 0 | 50 | 50 |
| 1999/98 | 1087 | 0 | 18 | 19 |
| 1999/98 | 1087 | 0 | 18 | 19 |
| 100 Wharfedale | 254 | 0 | 27 | 24 |
| 1119/98 | 112/4 | 0 | 37 | 43 |

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------|----|----|----|
| 450/381 | 597 | -1 | 22 | 33 |
| 25 Abchurch Lane | 43 | 0 | 43 | 43 |
| 55 Abchurch Lane | 125/4 | 0 | 19 | 19 |
| 1999/98 | 1087 | 0 | 18 | 19 |

PHARMACEUTICALS

| | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-----|---|------|------|
| 539 | Academy & Union | 125 | + | 2.1 | 36.4 |
| 49 | Acad Opts | 87 | + | 1.3 | 10.6 |
| 20 | BFS Inc & Gdn | 96 | + | 13.5 | 10.6 |
| 529 | BFS Inc & Gdn II | 120 | + | 10.8 | 14.0 |
| 84 | BFS Inc & Gdn CFI | 120 | + | | |
| 26 | Beale's Gifted St | 53 | + | | |
| 55 | Bentley | 244 | + | 2.4 | 29.0 |
| 232 | Bentley Env Co | 97 | + | | |
| 197 | Bn Access | 135 | + | 4.2 | 23.2 |
| 86 | Bn Estates Sec | 103 | + | 1.3 | 38.1 |
| 13 | Bn Estates | 36 | + | 3.1 | 29.0 |
| 243 | Brunum | 336 | + | 2.4 | |
| 23 | Chapman Dns | 81 | - | 4.6 | 25.4 |

PRINTING & PAPER

| 1999/98 | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
|---------|-------------------|---------|-------|-------|------|
| 723 | Cambridge | 999 | -10 | 32 | 36.5 |
| 734 | Capital East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 744 | Cyber East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 754 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 764 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 774 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 784 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 794 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 804 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 814 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 824 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 834 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 844 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 854 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 864 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 874 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 884 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 894 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 904 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 914 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 924 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 934 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 944 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 954 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 964 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 974 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 984 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |
| 994 | China East Asia | 189 | - | 15 | - |

PROPERTY

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|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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RETAILERS, FOOD

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------|-------|------|------|
| 115 | GI Japan | 1413 | 2 | ... | ... |
| 114 | Kuon Pk Ex Inc | ... | ... | 72 | 16.8 |
| 61 | Henderson Inc | 100 | ... | ... | ... |
| 120 | Henderson Air Wt | 1228 | ... | 7.9 | 7.5 |
| 202 | Henderson Cos | 60 | ... | ... | ... |
| 73 | Hyatt Regency | 1029 | ... | 14 | 69.3 |
| 141 | Hyatt Hotel Inc | 153 | ... | 5.5 | 21.1 |
| 379 | Hyatt Regency | 241 | ... | ... | ... |
| 385 | Hyatt Regency | 251 | ... | ... | ... |
| 141 | Hyatt Regency | 516 | ... | 2.0 | ... |
| 30 | Hyatt Regency | 59 | ... | ... | ... |
| 141 | Hyatt Regency | 129 | ... | ... | ... |
| 141 | Hyatt Regency | 516 | ... | 0.5 | ... |
| 44 | Hyatt Regency | 118 | ... | 7.5 | 15.0 |
| 112 | IAS US Tech | 36 | ... | 2.6 | 27.7 |
| 139 | IAS US Tech | 190 | ... | 3.8 | 27.0 |
| 139 | IAS US Tech | 45 | ... | ... | ... |
| 27 | IMBSCO Asia | 140 | ... | 18.4 | 47.1 |
| 27 | IMBSCO Asia | 140 | ... | 15 | 40.9 |
| 31 | IMBSCO Asia | 140 | ... | ... | ... |
| 62 | IMBSCO Asia | 519 | ... | ... | ... |
| 62 | IMBSCO Asia | 519 | ... | ... | ... |
| 62 | IMBSCO Asia | 519 | ... | ... | ... |
| 62 | IMBSCO Asia | 519 | ... | ... | ... |
| 135 | J Fy Eco U | 237 | 1 1/2 | 31 | 34.6 |

RETAILERS, GENERAL

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WATER

| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | | | | | | |

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|---------|----|-----|------|--------|
| 147 | 1st Pacific Tech | 214 1/2 | 1% | 0.5 | | |
| 148 | 1st Pacific Japan | 50 | | | | |
| 149 | 1st Pacific Pk | 55 1/2 | 1% | 23 | 34.3 | |
| 150 | 1st Pacific Pk | 24 | | | 24 | 61.9 |
| 216 | 1st Pacific Pk | 107 | 1% | 4.7 | 28.3 | |
| 352 | 1st Pacific Pk | 420 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 148 1/2 | 1% | 23 | 35.1 | |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
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| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
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| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
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| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
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| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
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| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
| 150 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 51 | | | | |
| 229 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 49 1/2 | 1% | 11 | 66.8 | |
| 114 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 126 1/2 | 1% | 41 | 26.8 | 11 2/4 |
| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
| 349 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 79 1/2 | 3% | 15 | 65.1 | |
| 147 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 191 1/2 | | | 47 | 32.2 |
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| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
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| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
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| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
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| 352 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 400 1/2 | 1% | 2 | 30 | 30 |
| 344 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 80 | | | | |
| 409 | Macquarie Sec Pk | 54 1/2 | | | 18 | 6.8 |
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SUPPORT SERVICES

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| 100.00 | Year 8-9: 1999 | 100.000 | |
| 100.00 | Year 9-10: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 10-11: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 12-13: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 13-14: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 14-15: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 15-16: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 16-17: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 17-18: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 18-19: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 19-20: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 21-22: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 22-23: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 23-24: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 24-25: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 26-27: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 27-28: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 28-29: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 29-30: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 32-33: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 34-35: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 39-40: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 41-42: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 42-43: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 43-44: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 44-45: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 45-46: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 46-47: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 47-48: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 48-49: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 49-50: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 50-51: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 51-52: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 72-73: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 73-74: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 74-75: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 75-76: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 84-85: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 85-86: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
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| 100.00 | Year 03-04: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 04-05: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 05-06: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 06-07: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 07-08: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 08-09: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 09-10: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 10-11: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 11-12: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 12-13: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 13-14: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 14-15: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 15-16: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 16-17: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 17-18: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 18-19: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 19-20: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 20-21: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 21-22: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 22-23: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 23-24: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 24-25: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 25-26: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 26-27: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 27-28: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 28-29: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 29-30: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 30-31: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 31-32: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 32-33: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 33-34: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 34-35: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 35-36: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 36-37: 1999 | 100.000 | -0.00% |
| 100.00 | Year 37-38: | | |

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------|----------|------|
| 104.96 | Weds 8/5 2002-05 | 110.2829 | -0.1 |
| 119.51 | Weds 11/4/01 2000-07 | 124.8226 | -0.1 |

TRANSPORT

| days after the day of trade | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| when a stock is ex-dividend | | | | | | |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | | | |

OTHER FINANCIAL

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

BRITISH FUNDS

| | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
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| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1 | | | | | | |

SHORTS (under 5 years)

days
kids to
th us.

LONGS (over 15 years)

| aysia | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|---------|-------|-------|-----|
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |
| 1999/98 | High | Low | Company | Price | % Chg | P/E |

INDEX-Linked

| | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|------|--|------|------|
| 537 | Corvair | 756 | | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| 538 | East Las Vegas | 177 | | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| 539 | Crownpoint Funds | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 540 | Centent Funds | 148 | | 0.0 | 21.5 |
| 541 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 542 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 543 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 544 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 545 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 546 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 547 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 548 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 549 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 550 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 551 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 552 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 553 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 554 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 555 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 556 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 557 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 558 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 559 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 560 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 561 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 562 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 563 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 564 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 565 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 566 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 567 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 568 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 569 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 570 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 571 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 572 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 573 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 574 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 575 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 576 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 577 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 578 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 579 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 580 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 581 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 582 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 583 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 584 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 585 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 586 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 587 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 588 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 589 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 590 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 591 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 592 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 593 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 594 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 595 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 596 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 597 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 598 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 599 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 600 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 601 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 602 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 603 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 604 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 605 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 606 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 607 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 608 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 609 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 610 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 611 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 612 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 613 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 614 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 615 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 616 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 617 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 618 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 619 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 620 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 621 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 622 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 623 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 624 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 625 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
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| 628 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 629 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 630 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 631 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 632 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 633 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 634 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 635 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 636 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 637 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 638 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 639 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 640 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 641 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 642 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 643 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 644 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 645 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 646 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 647 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 648 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 649 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 650 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 651 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 652 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 653 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 654 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 655 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
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| 660 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 661 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
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| 665 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 666 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 667 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 668 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 669 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 670 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 671 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 672 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 673 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 674 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 675 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 676 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 677 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 678 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 679 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 680 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 681 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 682 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 683 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 684 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 685 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 686 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 687 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 688 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 689 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 690 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 691 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 692 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 693 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 694 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 695 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 696 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 697 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 698 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 699 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |
| 700 | First Fund | 2258 | | 10.7 | 79.6 |

| 1999/98 | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|
| Int. red | Grd red | High | Low | Stock |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
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| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |
| 123.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 | 124.96 |

MEDIAN (5 to 15 years)

| | | | | |
|-------|------|--------|--------|---------|
| 9.50 | 3.51 | 118.76 | 89.44 | Times P |
| 13.17 | 3.31 | 160.21 | 124.08 | Times P |
| 14.00 | 3.25 | 160.21 | 124.08 | Times P |
| 15.87 | 5.05 | 112.36 | 93.20 | Times P |
| 17.12 | 4.98 | 112.36 | 112.81 | Times P |
| 18.00 | 4.95 | | | Times P |
| 18.00 | 4.95 | | | Times P |
| 18.00 | 4.95 | | | Times P |
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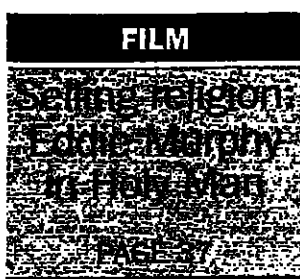
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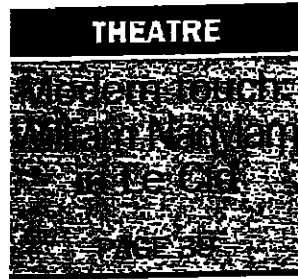
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THE TIMES ARTS



The Troubles with our Julie

Forty years ago, as a little girl at prep school in Birmingham, Julie Walters received a terrible thrashing designed to break her spirit. A vicious teacher literally tried to beat the Irish pride out of her with a wooden ruler. Her crime? The eight-year-old refused to pronounce Bath in the English way with a long A — as in Arthur.

"I never told my mother, who was from Ireland, as this was a blow against her and I was making a stand to protect her," Walters recalls.

It is the same courage and defiance that she has brought to her latest film, *Titanic Town*, which opens later this month, in which she stars as Bernie McPhelimy, a character based on Tess Costello, the housewife who launched the Women For Peace movement in Belfast in 1972.

Despite threats to her life, bricks through her window and a hatchet attack on her son, Bernie refuses to be intimidated. Instead she gets 25,000 signatures for a peace petition, arguably setting in motion the popular groundswell which culminated last year in the Good Friday agreement.

Ironically, Bernie is ostracised by her neighbours on her own housing estate in Andersonstown, where the IRA and the Army fight running battles, endangering the lives of the local children. The only person to support her says: "Sure I'll sign, dear, so long as I remain anonymous."

Yet Walters quashes all suggestion of heroism when talking about Bernie, the most unlikely queen of peace, popping Valium, sporting curlers and miffing her public pronouncements. Standing on the steps of Stormont next to the Secre-

Julie Walters has made one of the most important films of her career, just as she is losing interest in the profession. Paul Nathanson met her

tary of State, she refers to him to the world's media as "the paramilitary Secretary of State".

"It's not about heroes and heroines," Walters says in her broad Brummie accent. "Bernie's flawed and driven by her vanity, and she also feels awfully guilty for bring-

'Acting is much less important to me now than it was'

be my mother, but I only realised it when I saw the film and saw the same tiredness and frustration. I thought, 'Who is that old bat on the screen?' — and it was my mother."

Titanic Town has also jolted Walters in her attitude to the Troubles. Before, she was blasé when incidents ap-

peared on the news. Now, after playing in scenes where tanks roar over front gardens and people shoot each other by your front gate, she is shaken by the terror. "It's terrifying. Filming in Belfast, I was working with actors who were there as teenagers in 1972 and it was a real education. Tess Costello still has nightmares

from her own experience nearly 30 years ago. And her voice still shakes when she recalls her own kind turning on her. "I just hope that the peace agreement will work out. It's the best chance they've ever had and people do want it. Extremists frighten me. The best way is balance and harmony."

Titanic Town has already won critical acclaim in America, where *Variety*, the showbiz bible, praised Walters's "corker of a performance" and "the skill of this touching drama". Walters describes the film as one of the most important in her career. Yet it is clear that her appetite for acting is

waning. The only part pencilled in for this year is Mrs Mann, the workhouse mistress in *Oliver Twist*, to be shot in Prague in the spring. But if it means being away too much from Maisie, her ten-year-old daughter, she will not go.

Instead she will stay at home in Sussex indulging a new-found passion: writing. Walters is penning her first novel, but is having to battle against her chronic indisciplined and a talent for missing deadlines.

The project is already 18 months late, but her publisher, Little Brown, is showing superhuman patience. Perhaps it has an inkling of its author's working methods, which involve stopping her car in country lanes to make notes on the back of an envelope only to find she has posted the letter when she returns to her laptop.

"I had written a book about pregnancy years ago and Little Brown asked me to write a novel, saying it only needed five characters," she explains. "They liked my idea, so I thought, 'That's a cinch, but I get writer's block and can't see my way through a chapter.'"

It is not a comic novel but tells the story of two English actresses in New York. One, in the throes of a breakdown, is picked up by a man and taken back to his apartment. One moment he seems to her to be the Angel Gabriel and the next Godzilla.

"Writing's a wonderful diversion from work," she says, "and acting is much less important to me now than it was. In future I'll do as little as I can get away with."

Who knows? Comedy's loss might just be literature's gain.

• *Titanic Town* opens on Feb 26.



New chapter: Julie Walters wants to swap acting for novel-writing but it is harder going than she had thought

An Academy Award for *Central Station* would crown Brazil's cinematic renaissance. Carol Allen talks to the film's director

Oscar books a ticket to Rio

Come the Academy Awards ceremony on March 21, the spotlight will focus as usual on the main categories — Best Film, Actor, Actress, Director and so on. In most years the competition for Best Foreign Language Film tends to be a poor relation in the glamorous Oscar family but this year not one but two of the movies nominated in this category are also in line for higher profile awards.

In with the best chance numerically is Roberto Benigni's controversial Italian Holocaust comedy *Life Is Beautiful* with its seven nominations, including Best Film. But another Best Foreign Film contender worthy of mainstream attention is *Central Station* from Brazil. Its star, Fernanda Montenegro, who won the Silver

Bear at the Berlin Film Festival, is also up for Best Actress, while the film itself, which opens here on March 12, has so far won a clutch of trophies, including Best Film at Berlin, and most recently a Golden Globe, often regarded as a crystal ball foretelling Oscar success.

Prizes apart, what makes *Central Station* a remarkable achievement is that it is the creative and commercial peak in the renaissance of a film industry which literally disappeared in the early 1990s under the weight of Brazil's eco-

nomie and social problems. The film has been sold all over the world and in its own country has broken box-office records, pushing *Titanic* into second place and *Godzilla* into third. "Which all goes to show," says its director, Walter Salles, "that size doesn't matter after all."

Central Station is a road movie about Dora, a middle-aged woman, who scrapes a living as a letter writer for illiterate passers-by in Rio de Janeiro's bustling Central Station, until circumstances force her to accompany an orphaned nine-year-old boy across the country to the remote North East of Brazil in search of his lost father. The relationship between the grasp-

ing and suspicious woman and the tough and determined child is refreshingly unsentimental and unpredictable, but although the film can be enjoyed purely as an engaging story, the two main characters are also metaphors for Brazil itself in the past 20 years. Dora represents the culture of indifference, which was created by the drive for industrialisation regardless of human cost, while the boy's search for his father, explains Salles, is a symbol for the dual search for both past and future which is at the root of Brazil's culture.

"Countries that have been colonised are countries where the quest for the father is still very present. There never was a father, a sense of identity and roots in the past. It's the missing link."

Conversely, for generations Brazilians have been told they were going to live in the country of the future, a future which never came. That created a paradox — nostalgia for the past. So in 1992, when things were collapsing, the students took to the streets and President Collor was impeached due to popular pressure, we started to realise that

we had to take the future in our own hands. This is what José represents in the film."

José, the boy, played by nine-year-old Vinícius de Oliveira, also represents the poor of Brazil in a very real sense. Salles found him at the airport, where he worked as a shoeshine boy, having left school a year and a half earlier to help to support his mother and his three brothers.

"It was raining so nobody wanted a shoeshine," Salles remembers. "He asked if I could lend him some money so he could get something to eat. We were looking for a boy who knew what the battle for survival in the streets of Rio meant but who had not lost his innocence in the process. I was really struck by the density of his eyes and, driven by intuition, I asked him to do a film test. After a few seconds thought, he said he couldn't do that because he'd never been to the movies. But I persuaded him, he did the test and that was it."

In the early 1990s, when the Brazilian feature film industry had virtually ground to a halt, Salles, who is now 42, was making documentaries for television. The script for *Central Station* won a major award from the Sundance Film Festival worth \$30,000, an important contribution towards the film's initial budget. But despite its careful scripting and rehearsals, once filming started, Salles's documentary-making instincts kept him responsive to the world around him.

"The texture of the film was constantly changed by the contact with reality. 300,000 people walk through Central Station every single day. A Hollywood crew would try to control those people. Coming from a documentary background, we tried to mingle with them. The first day of the shoot, as we were installing Dora's little table in the station, real people came to Fern-

anda Montenegro and asked whether they could dictate letters. We filmed those letters and found that they had a much rawer, poetic quality

than the ones we had written in the screenplay."

Salles has made one other feature film, *Foreign Lands*, which deals with the mass emi-

gration from the country in the early 1990s as a result of Collor's disastrous attempt at economic restructuring. It was made in 1995, one of the first

products of the newly reborn film industry.

"We're now making perhaps 40 films a year coming from zero," says Salles. "It's a very interesting time because there's a lot of unity. The old masters such as Carlos Diegues, Nelson Pereira dos Santos, one of the leading lights of the Cinema Novo in the 1960s and 1970s, and Hector Babenco are very close to the younger generation of film-makers. We all tend to make films that have the same desire to explain, to be a reflection of our country."

What would an Oscar mean for the Brazilian film renaissance? "It would certainly mean that our industry is mature and competitive but I personally feel that our main goal is to maintain a very close relationship with our own audience."

"This film wasn't made to win prizes. It was made to depict a situation that was specifically, intrinsically Brazilian and the rest is really a consequence of that. If it helps Brazilian cinema, then that would be good, but whatever the outcome, I will continue to make the films I believe in."

• *Central Station* is released on March 12



Walter Salles: "We all make films with the same desire to be a reflection of our country"

7 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
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'The film was made to depict a specifically Brazilian situation'

and the drive for industrialisation regardless of human cost, while the boy's search for his father, explains Salles, is a symbol for the dual search for both past and future which is at the root of Brazil's culture.

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★★★★★ "excruciatingly funny...insanely real...astounding"

amy brenneman aaron eckhart catherine keener nastassja kinski jason patric ben stiller

a film by niall labin
your friends & neighbors
from the director of 'in the company of men'

NOW SHOWING AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

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this year's

NEW MOVIES: James Christopher sees Nick Nolte lead a fine cast through the chilling world of *Affliction*

Have pity for the iceman cometh

During Paul Schrader's *Affliction*, Nick Nolte's Wade shambles around the snowbound town of Lawford, New Hampshire, hand on jaw, nursing a blinding toothache. Even when he wrenches out the offending molar with a pair of pliers, Wade still aches. He aches because he's a small cop in a small town. He aches because his wife left him for a rich man. He aches because his young daughter, Jill, can't stand being with him. But most of all he aches because he's Wade: an over-the-hill alcoholic with enough chips on his shoulder to open a casino. That's a lot of affliction for a traffic cop who has never been at the right end of a raw deal.

But this is not the affliction which Schrader's film distinguishes from Russell Banks's novel of the same name. Despite being a genial irrelevance around town, Wade is terrifying. Not because he unwittingly frightens his daughter, nor because he hates being in the pocket of the local moneybags. But because someone in the past has messed with Wade's marbles, and he wears that grudge like armor.

When a rich tourist dies in a mysterious hunting accident, Wade brings the full weight of his prejudices to bear. Being a nominal cop, he succeeds only in getting up the nose of his boss. Being Wade, he fumes about conspiracy theories down the phone to his successful younger brother, Rolfe (William Dafoe). Rolfe sensibly spends most of the film living elsewhere. What little he has to say about Wade is revealed in short bursts of gloomy voice-over: "Wade lived on the edge of his emotions. He had no perspective to retreat to." We hardly need these morose signs to know the film is plodding towards the heart of some American Tragedy.

It is left to James Coburn, as Wade's irascible father — an alcoholic and a sinner — to expose Wade's grudge. In grainy flashbacks to Wade's childhood, there are glimpses to a life of domestic violence. In their seamy-smoking, cigarette-chomping, beer-sharing, the same reckless drinking, the same blinkered understanding of women.

Coburn and Nolte are fabulously paired, like bare-fisted boxers carved from the same thankless slab. Behind them is a history of male violence. In front of them is the bleak knowledge that they are going nowhere. With his granite face, suspicious squint, bear-like stoop and pitbull drawl, Wade is not pleasant viewing. But Nolte's magnificent performance is worth every mo-

Affliction
ABC Shafesbury Ave
15, 108 mins
Lumpy, bruising portrait of father and son with Nick Nolte and James Coburn

This Year's Love
Odeon Marble Arch
18, 108 mins
Camden Town misfits make love among the junk stalls

Holy Man
Warner Village
West End PG, 114 mins
Eddie Murphy sells his soul on a shopping channel

Foreign Land
ICA, 100 mins
Strangely gripping underclass thriller set in Brazil and Lisbon

News From the Good Lord
ICA, 110 mins
Weird French comedy in which disgruntled characters look for God

ment of its Oscar nomination. Sissy Spacek's soft-hearted waitress ropes Nolte's crazy brow and gaze either a notional squeeze or an angry curl. Coburn flashes cynical smiles of recognition. It is a wonderfully understated turn by Spacek in a relentless, slow-burning, but compelling meditation on male hurt.

David Kane's debut feature, *This Year's Love*, is remarkable if only for the fact that he has managed to employ what looks like half the leading lights of the London Fringe over the past decade. Poking around the stalls and junk shops of Camden Town, his buzzy, soapy comedy charts the tangled mess six twenty-somethings make of their love lives over a three-year period. The tone is set by Douglas Henshall's Glaswegian tattoo artist, who coolly marches into his wedding reception in a tuxedo, suit, fling the cake against the wall, and storms off to Heathrow with the honeymoon tickets to Jamaica. It turns out his fabled bride, Catherine McCormack, has been sleeping with his best man. At



"A relentless, slow-burning, but compelling meditation on male hurt": Nick Nolte and James Coburn in a scene from Paul Schrader's *Affliction*

Heathrow, Henshall chats up Kathy Barker's airport cleaner and they promptly decamp back to Camden, where McCormack is already making a move on another Glaswegian — Dougray Scott's grungy, free-spirited (for which read awful and broke) painter.

Meanwhile, in a nearby cyber cafe, Scott's Liverpoolian flatmate, Ian Hart, a Julian Lennon lookalike and comic book nerd, bumps into Jennifer Ehle's New Age single mother, sporting a blonde Rastafarian wig. Ehle, a trust-fund rebel on the dole, and irritatingly PC, breaks the weekly Hart into the joys of sex like a driving instructor. "Wrong. Wrong. Dominate me." "All right, what do want me to do then?" squeaks Hart

from behind his round specs. And so it goes on. Over the next three years they drift in and out of each other's orbits, fall into each other's beds, and fall out almost as soon as they get started.

Kane's plot is as hopelessly improbable as the rose-tinted view of Camden's boutiques. Elvis pubs and bohemian squats. But there's a nice, raw discrepancy between what makes the characters tick, and what makes their love-lives tick. Burke's self-deprecating cleaner and pub-band singer can't understand why any of the blokes should fall for a fat bird with "Celtic Forever" tattooed on her bum.

Scott's hilarious artist, a tougher, grizzled version of Ewan McGregor, can't seem

to work out a reason for commitment. And those unlucky enough to scratch Hart's desperately needy Liverpoolian discover a socio-sexual psychopath.

Kane's film aspires to that haphazard sense of lives being thrown together to see if they will stick. There are some cracking mismatches and eye-catching performances. But

the way Kane studiously indulges the daisy chain of characters — setting up dates, allotting them the same film time, and then picking up the grubby pieces — is worryingly mechanical and not a little predictable... particularly by the third or fourth partner.

Still, his movie is a model of probity compared with Stephen Herek's *Holy Man*. If you harbour the delusion that Eddie Murphy is God's gift to film, then this is for you. Wandering down a Miami highway kissing patches of grass, Murphy's cheery itinerant Guru is nearly run over by Jeff Goldblum's jaded television executive. Goldblum has enough problems with the plummeting ratings on his crappy shopping channel to warrant a mur-

der. When Murphy wanders on to one of Goldblum's live sets and starts spouting homilies about the mess people's spiritual lives must be in to want to buy this junk, the products bizarrely start flying off the shelves. Guru hits the shopping G-spot, becomes a national phenomenon, and religion and consumerism are brought into glorious harmony.

Greed is the target here. That and America's propensity to buy chainsaws, doormats and toe rings from an honest-looking preacher with a bald head and natty facial furniture. Herek's satire is watchable chiefly for its tacky gags about the sad business of selling. But it is patently not what Herek himself is interested in selling. The ghastly double act

between Murphy's big, smiley, super-naïve G, and Goldblum's cynical sleazeball is flogged as mercilessly and imaginatively as detergent. Kelly Preston's busty marketing whiz is the romantic packaging. Even impulse buyers might balk at the prospect.

In stark contrast, Walter Salles's wintry, 1995 black and white feature, *Foreign Land*, is a miracle of content over budget. Here the fortunes of a student in São Paulo (Fernando Pinto) and a struggling Brazilian waitress in Lisbon (Fernanda Torres), become inextricably tied when Pinto bumbles a mission to deliver a dodgy suitcase to a criminal contact in Lisbon. Forced on the run with Torres, the fearful Pinto discovers that his new homeland is just as uncertain and dangerous as the turmoil he left behind. The real surprise is how the film moves with unexpected deftness from gritty, bare-wall realism, to a hair-raising thriller complete with diamonds, identity and a fledgeling romance at stake. It bodes well for Salles's latest film, the Oscar-nominated *Central Station* (see interview on facing page).

Another ICA offering, Didier Le Pêcheur's 1996 debut feature, *News From the Good Lord*, starts with quirky, comic promise. A subversive writer, wrestling with questions of existence, kills himself by accelerating into a brick wall. His fervent admirers suddenly doubt whether they are real or merely characters in one of his novels. They want to thrash out their lousy plot lines with God. Led by Maria de Medeiros and Christian Charmentat, the motley Pirandellian crew discover that the Author is a disillusioned old hack with writer's block whose latest book has been mucked up by their insistence on meeting him.

Pêcheur assembles all the ingredients for a first-class spoof on solipsism, then promptly blows it by inviting us to sympathise with his characters who, despite the flatter camera angles, sharp hairdos and faded charisma, spend far too much time being tediously dislikeable in a stolen taxi cab. Most of us have to pay fares for that sort of indulgence.

NEW VIDEO RELEASES

■ **THE CHALLENGE**
Carlton, PG, 1998

"CLIMBING, climbing, always climbing," says Luis Trenker's tut-tutting mother. But what is a born mountaineer to do? The Matterhorn looms before him, and an English rival (played by Robert Douglas) is going for its conquest. The cast's accents are all over the place in this Brit-

ish account of Edward Whymper's victory over the Matterhorn in 1865, but there is no doubting the authenticity of the Alpine scenes, superbly shot, or the moments of high drama. A fascinating film.

■ **DEEP RISING**
Entertainment, 15, 1998
SEA bandits board the world's most opulent cruise ship, only

to find that monsters have sucked the blood from passengers, crew, a jewel thief in a stinky dress (Famke Janssen) and anyone else on board. Glommeister Rob Bottin supplies modestly effective special effects, but an underpowered cast, topped by Treat Williams, and routine direction stifle most of the pleasures of B-movie holism. Available to rent.

■ **DR DOLITTLE**
Fox Pathé, PG, 1998
ONCE the subject of a famously unsuccessful musical, Hugh Lofting's stories are turned into a crass vehicle for Eddie Murphy as a San Francisco doctor who rediscovers his humanity when he runs over a dog. The dog talks back; and soon all the city's sick animals come to him for aid. Sounds like a charming fantasy? Think again. To avoid appearing sentimental, the film-makers have loaded the script with rudeness, limiting the movie's appeal to youngsters just getting the hang of talking dirty. Available to rent or buy.

■ **HIGH AND LOW**
Cinecoeur, 12, 1963
KUROSAWA's extraordinary epic thriller is based on a novel by hard-boiled crime writer Ed McBain, though the film's atmosphere could not be more Japanese. The first half unfolds in a villa high above sweltering Yokohama, where the kidnapping of an industrialist's son goes awry. The second takes us down to the city, bustling and sleazy, where the kidnapper is trailed. Kurosawa gives the visual contrasts a moral dimension, and keeps us riveted for more than two hours. With Toshiro Mifune and Tatsuya Nakadai.

■ **KISSED**
Tartan, 18, 1966
AND now for something completely different: the Canadian tale of a necrophiliac girl who makes gentle love to the best-looking corpses at the local funeral parlour. This could have been wearisome and kinky, but director Lynne Stopkewich plays it cool and poetic, luring us by degrees into the heroine's strange world, helped by a seductive performance from Molly Parker. No morality is invoked; instead, we are left to make our own judgments and to ponder on the attraction of extremes and the lengths people go to pursue their desires.

GEOFF BROWN

30p

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"THE BRIT FILM SENSATION OF 1999" TIM DUNN
"KATHY BURKE IS A DELIGHT" DAILY STAR
"HILARIOUS...SUPERB" BACCHUS
A SORT OF 'FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL' ON ACID" ICHER
"CRACKING COMEDY" BLAST
"A TAUT GAG-FILLED SCRIPT...PLUS A BEVY OF TOP NOTCH PERFORMANCES" OBSERVER

KATHY BURKE JENNIFER EHLE IAN HART DOUGLAS HENSHALL
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this
Year's
Love

your pad
or mine?



STEREOPHONICS
OCEAN
COLOUR SCENE
GARRAGE

AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE FROM TOMORROW

THEATRE
A Corneille classic

Relic brought to life

Let me speedily dispose of one aspect of Declan Donnellan's lucid revival of Corneille's *Le Cid* that surprised and, judging by the reviews I've read, delighted the French when it was staged in Avignon last year. By casting one fine black actor as the title character and another as the King of Spain, the British director broke a de facto colour bar that, for reasons of tradition, prejudice, or lack of trust in its audience's imaginations, appears still to be pretty adamantly maintained at the Comédie Française and France's other culture-palaces. Moreover, he did so with Neo-Classicism's first masterpiece, a play before which it is mandatory to genuflect, as if it was a holy relic and not a living drama. But as we here know from his work for Cheek by Jowl, Donnellan doesn't see playhouses as reliquaries. If he has a style, it consists of spare staging, narrative clarity, incisive acting: in short, a rigorous avoidance of unnecessary rhetoric or distracting theatricality.



That is what he has brought the French and, with key lines transposed into surtitles, what he is offering Londoners for the next ten days. It could, I suppose, be argued that anyone who scraped the accumulated goo off Corneille's tragedy would simply expose dead bones. Today conflicts between honour and passion, duty and love, barely exist. They certainly do not create the heat they do inside Rodrigue, later the Moor-conquer-

ing Cid, who feels obliged to challenge and kill the putative father-in-law who has slapped his own father's face. It is easier to imagine a modern counterpart of his Chimène, who seeks the execution of a man she admits to adoring, explaining "to be worthy of you I must have you killed"; but not a lot. Yet children are still seeking to unravel the moral knots left them by parents: people must still cope with totems and taboos; superegos war with ids and (a special emphasis here) our male and female sides are often at odds. Certainly William Nadyalam's sensitive, reflective Cid and Sarah Karbasnikoff's artless, sensuous Chimène are far more than 17th-century nobles in a period fix. It is not merely that they and the rest of Patrick Rambaud's court wear modernish army uniforms and smart, unfussy dresses. It is that they make you feel the characters' youth and confusion — and a vulnerability signalled both by the odd giveaway sob and by the occasional glimpse of naked skin beneath the linen.

Corneille's rhyming alexandrines, according to *La Monde*, followed "au pied de la lettre", come across quietly rather than noisily, yet have intensity and power. There are many superb moments: a bare-chested duel mimed on opposite sides of a big empty stage as the bespectacled king and the anguished princess at the centre continue to cope with war and amour; whoops of bellicosity and macho glee as the Spanish soldiery engulf a Cid whose mind is clearly on subtler matters. Yet I think I shall most recall Nadyalam seeking comfort from a father who, as played

ARTS

POP

Rap with Black Eyed Peas



Cold comfort: Michel Baumann, a chauvinist father, is impervious to pleas for solace from his sensitive son Cid (William Nadyalam) in Declan Donnellan's fine staging of Corneille

So just what is the deal here?

This is a mild play, a gentle play, a play of moods that shift somewhat between curtain up and curtain down. Having Frith Banbury as its director means there are also shifts in the light that filters through the strangely milky-white windows and flashes of lightning from an out-of-town storm as relationships get out of hand. The storm is part of the script, which won a Pulitzer Prize for the author in 1977 — what can the competition have been? The author was D. L. Coburn, but whether he was a man or she was a

woman the programme gives no clue. We are offered half a page and a photo of both understudies, and why not, but something about the scribe would also have been an idea. On the unused sun porch of an old people's home, Joss Ackland's Weller is playing solitaire until Dorothy Tutin's Fonia enters and is persuaded to join him in games of gin rummy. She wins. She always

wins. He never wins. Somehow this is presented by the author as expressive of their troubled relationships with life, spouses, children, friends, business and ultimately their relationship with one another. He is not as clever as he thinks he is and loses his temper when shown this; she is sharper-witted, or has better luck or, er, I don't know what it's meant to mean for her. Should she have contrived to lose a few games in the very different battles with her husband and her non-visiting son? We learn so little about her — though it is more than we learn about Weller — that the characters exist merely as coat-hangers for two experienced actors to hang their skills upon.

If this is what you relish, then you may take pleasure in what Tutin, Ackland, Banbury and Coburn provide: unspo-



The Gin Game: Tutin and Ackland



Aces high: Dorothy Tutin and Joss Ackland demonstrate the old-fashioned theatrical virtues in *The Gin Game*

Grasping the elusive

Ibsen's hero can slip like an eel through the fingers of a production team, *Jeremy Kingston* writes. The truth is that Peer himself is like an eel, evading capture throughout his life, only makes more daunting the task facing a director and his leading actor. If radio drama had existed in 1867 this is the form Ibsen would surely have used to tell of Peer's rock-climbing feats, fights, and encounters with dark forces that set him off on the wrong paths through life and reappear at its close. In this Royal Exchange production Braham Murray's direction and David Threlfall's performance do not win all the battles. A few are defeats, but only a few.

Mostly the themes of this epic emerge clearly on the seven-sided open stage where a ladder, a noose, the bridge of Peer's ship, descend from above. So do three maidens, whose sinuous writhings sug-

gest Peer's fleeting awareness of various sorts of loss. Michael Meyer's admirable translation is tinged with some recent colloquialisms. The setting is modern with the trolls wearing evening dress. In his wastrel youth Threlfall's Peer is bald as a skinhead, which never looks quite right, and particularly odd when the Mountain King calls on him to remove his Christian clothes and become as pagan as the trolls — the contrast between the two natures has become blurred. And yet the bald image arches over the play. On his travels Peer's hair has become thick but when home at last he is again skin-headed but this time with age. Hunched in a ground-length overcoat, peel-



David Threlfall as Ibsen's epic anti-hero Peer Gynt

Leaping out of the pod

POP

IT WAS a testament to Black Eyed Peas' grassroots appeal that the Shepherd's Bush Empire was not far from full on Monday night. The LA-based hip hop trio, winding up a European tour, had no new material to promote and are still after a debut British hit. Moreover, it had not been long since the band last played in London, although favourable reports of those shows doubtless boosted the turnout. Backed by four musicians, a DJ and female vocalist Kim Hill, Black Eyed Peas bounded on stage Beanie Boys-style. Apparently immune to tour fatigue, the trio spent the next 90 minutes not only jumping around, but incessantly encouraging the audience to follow suit. Most did, at least until the first of two startling displays of acrobatics. Wisely, before the backflips began, frontman Will Adams removed the metal bucket he had been

wearing on his head. His plastic cape came off too, although fellow rappers Apl. De. Ap. and Taboo kept on their bulky jackets and hats. From the same school of friendly, freestyle rap that in the past produced the likes of Arrested Development and the Jungle Brothers, Black Eyed Peas make the sort of softcore hip hop that tends to fare better in Britain than in America. Funky, blunted beats and blatant pop samples (bits of the Bee Gees, Blondie and the Meters all featured) backed jazzy, soulful songs about self-respect and integrity. If the result recalled early 1990s hip hop acts such as De La Soul and A Tribe Called Quest, the band's integral use of live instruments brought the sound back up to date and in line with the likes of the Roots and the Fugees. Released last year, Black Eyed Peas' excellent debut album, *Behind the Front*, has so far spawned just one single, the infectious *Joins & Jams*. The crowd, however, sang along to almost every song. Most would also have noticed numerous lyrical steals from artists such as Faith Evans, the Fugees and Jurassic 5. Presumably, the idea was to draw the audience further into the action. The ruse, however, proved pointless. Black Eyed Peas had the Empire in the palm of their hand all evening. Barely anyone budged until the house lights went up.

LISA VERRICO

A vet in stately practice

BLUES

WAR, hunger, prison, oppression: the blues have survived all these hardships. The capuccino machine at the Jazz Café is another matter. Its occasional death-rattle blasts, not to mention the clatter of empty glasses against the stainless-steel bar, provided ample competition to John Hammond's show. Hammond's single-minded performance, however, made it all bearable. Having begun his career in the coffee houses of Greenwich Village more than 30 years ago, the American guitarist takes such discomforts in his stride. An untiring 200-plus-shows-a-year man, he takes out his steel-bodied guitar and gets on with revisiting old 12-bar favourites and salvaging obscure collector's pieces. Had he turned up with Little Charlie and the Nightcats, the feisty backing band on his new album, *Long As I Have You*, he would have

had even less trouble making himself heard. But his true forte lies in the one-on-one intimacy of his acoustic recitals. Robert Johnson's classic *Come On In My Kitchen* rarely sounds as haunting and seductive as it does in his hands. With the rise of younger blues revivalists, Hammond is beginning to settle into the role of elder statesman. And in spite of the electric ambience of the new disc, he remains uncompromisingly faithful to Afro-American tradition, happier to interpret Blind Boy Fuller's *Untrue Blues* and other songs from the past rather than add a pop gloss or venture down the singer-songwriter path. It invariably makes for a stark, occasionally faltering presentation. Switching between his steel and acoustic instruments, Hammond keeps the conversation to a minimum, one song following another with barely a pause. There is something almost eerie about his performance: this craggy, self-effacing New Yorker producing the visceral grunts and despairing falsetto cries of another generation, another world. If the visual effect remains slightly incongruous, Hammond's multi-layered guitar playing grows more hypnotic by the year, bent notes splintering away from each spartan phrase. The spell lingered to the very end, culminating in a taut encore of Johnson's *Kindhearted Woman Blues*.

CLIVE DAVIS

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BOOKS

The morality of shuffling off the mortal coil

Tackling one of the great taboos, Georges Minois has written a major, moving but in the end maddening book. The distinguished French historian, here translated by Lydia C. Cochrane, admits that there is much to his story that will always be a mystery. Because the deed was so often hushed up, we have virtually no way of gauging what suicide rates were in the past or how they varied. Before suicide notes became common in the 18th century, what precisely those who cut their throats or gulped down poison were thinking is equally lost.

What can be known, however, are public attitudes; and these amount to a classic case of "two cultures" and the "double standard". "Common suicide" — ordinary people killing themselves out of unbearable pain, poverty or oppression — always drew official wrath. For all its cult of noble suicide, exemplified by Brutus and Cato, Antony and Cleopatra, the Classical world outlawed self-murder by slaves and foot-soldiers. In the age of Hamlet, peasants who did themselves in would then have their corpses tried, tortured and ritually executed; in England they would be buried at the crossroads with a stake through their hearts (to stop their troubled ghost from wandering); and their possessions would be forfeit.

For its part the State looked on the suicide as it would a soldier who had deserted his post — it was an affront to authority. And suicide was not just a crime, it was a sin, for the Church deemed such Judases rebels against God, and probably possessed by the Devil.

As always, however, it was one law for the rich and another for the poor. If common suicides were victimised, the elite were treated leniently. Stoicism had rationalised suicide

An important book on the history of suicide in the West is finally maddening, says Roy Porter



Fashionable *felo de se* romantic image of Chatterton's end

as the act of a noble soul; the *chansons de geste* celebrated the altruistic suicide — warriors sacrificing themselves to save a comrade or dying for love; and codes of honour and patriotism vindicated the aristocrat who fell on his sword: better death than disgrace. It was even possible for theologians to be soft on self-destruction. Had not Christ laid down His life for mankind?

Thus the status of suicide was always open to question. What Minois astutely shows is how the balance tipped in the Age of Reason. Pity replaced persecution, and the suicide won public sympathy. Partly so as to protect the victim's family from official might and greed the fiction emerged that suicides were out of their minds and not responsible for their deed. Philosophers like Hume and Voltaire trashed the old religious prohibitions; Goethe and the other writers

HISTORY OF SUICIDE
Voluntary Death in Western Culture
By Georges Minois

Johns Hopkins, £30
ISBN 0 8018 5919 0



began to romanticise suicide: while the teenaged Chatterton launched the cult of the doomed writer. Not least, the celebrity suicide made his appearance. As Minois remarks, despite the massive presence of self-slaughter on the Renais-

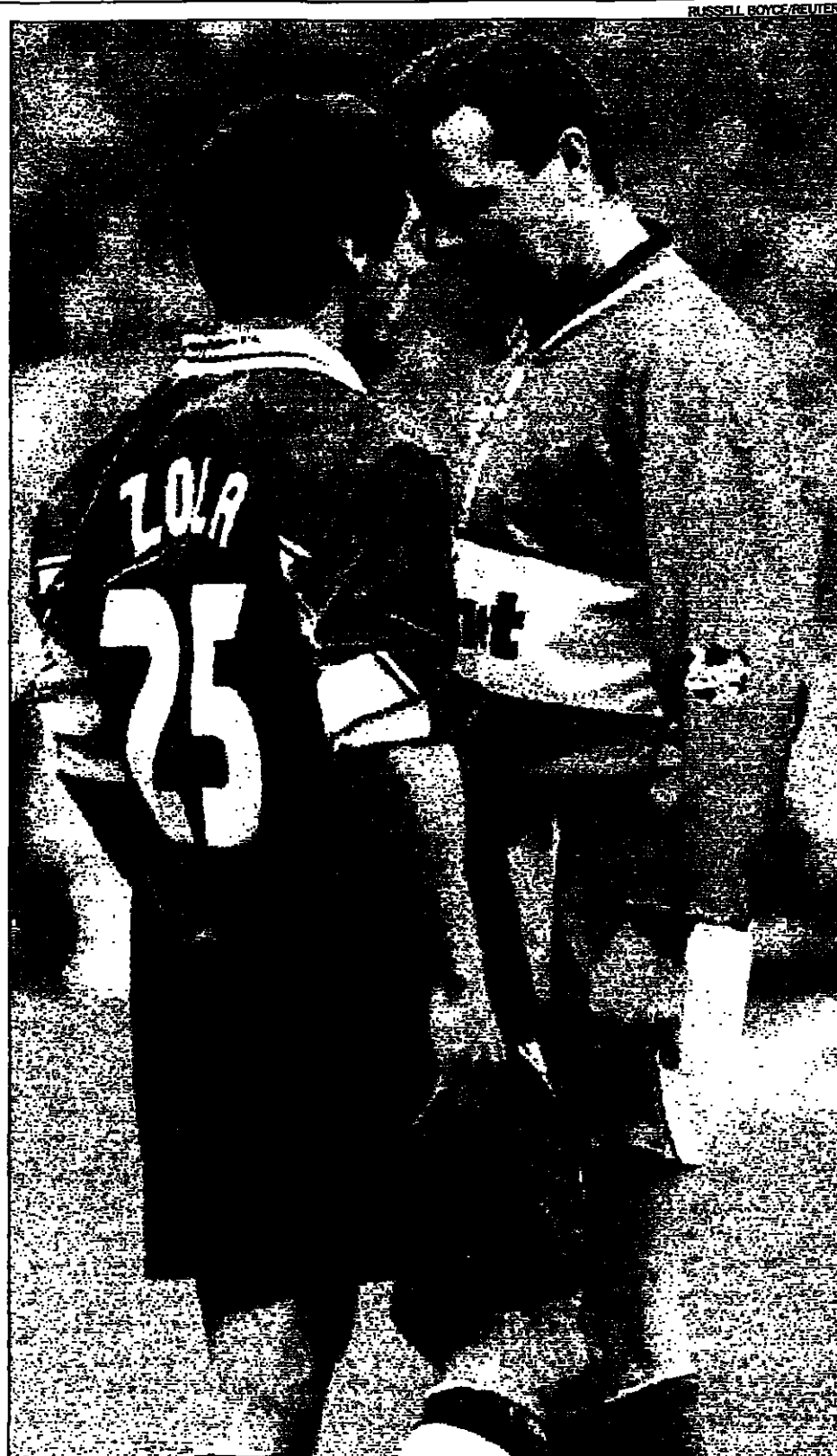
sance stage — 52 in Shakespeare alone — practically no illustrious people at that time actually topped themselves. By contrast, in the 18th century droves of English aristocrats blew out their brains (often over gambling debts), and some 21 politicians killed themselves, pre-eminently Clive of India and Lord Castlereagh.

Our islands became the suicide capital of the world, inviting the diagnosis of the "English malady". But what England was suffering from was a modern press, maximising exposure of such tragedies and thus creating copycats.

So what happened next? How was suicide seen once it had ceased to be the supreme revolt against the Almighty? This is where Minois' book is so frustrating, because it peters out just at this point. Whereas the title leads the unsuspecting reader to think that the story comes up to the present, the truth is that the last two centuries are covered in under 30 pages.

The great debaters of suicide — Camus, Sartre and the other Existentialists; the notable casualties (Primo Levi, Sylvia Plath); decriminalisation and other public changes; new trends, including mass cult suicides; and modern approaches to understanding the phenomenon (Durkheim and beyond) — all are passed over in silence or get just a fleeting mention. This is odd, for it has only been since Nietzsche's "God is dead" that suicide has become problematic. Self-destruction always had a meaning — the fist shaken at Heaven, defiance of the State. But in a godless, pointless world, how could shuffling off this mortal coil have any meaning?

Even so, this book, lucidly translated, makes compulsive reading. But keep your pistols locked away.



Gianfranco Zola and Paul Gascoigne discuss the finer points of the English game

Sorry, my son, memories aren't made of this

In the summer of 1952 Brian Glanville began work on a new book: *British Soccer and the Foreign Challenge*. Its theme was the decline of the British game in the face of strengthening competition from European and South American football.

At that time Glanville was certainly a prophet without honour in his own land. This was, remember, 18 months before the Hungarians took us apart at Wembley, and 45 years before Glanville's beloved Arsenal became, under Arsène Wenger, the North London regiment of the Foreign Legion. In 1952, indeed, Glenn Hoddle was just finishing off his previous life.

Even as a very young reporter Glanville could see that there was more to the game than was dreamt of by Walter Winterbottom. So to broaden his own horizons he quickly established a parallel career in Italy, writing for the *Corriere dello Sport*, as well as for *Sport Express*, *Sport and Pastime*, and many other now forgotten journals, before finding a home at *The Sunday Times*. Ever since, his commentary on British football has been informed by a deep knowledge of the Italian game.

His wake-up calls to the English football establishment

HOWARD DAVIES
FOOTBALL MEMORIES
By Brian Glanville
Virgin, £16.99
ISBN 1 85227 793 9



have rung out loud and clear for five decades. To judge by last week's game against France, he has been wasting his time, though Glanville may have gained some satisfaction from the sight of Arsenal's French forward line demolishing Arsenal's English defence.

But Glanville's life has not been exclusively devoted to writing such a commentary. His perspective is broad: his understanding of the politics and the play is second to none. He ought to get on and do it. *Football Memories* could then be quickly and quietly forgotten.

other, *The Rise of Gerry Logan*, was a success in translation in Germany. He wrote TV sketches for *That was the week that was*, his short stories have been widely acclaimed, and in 1981 John Gielgud performed in a Glanville radio play.

But here he puts his cultural aspirations aside and comes back to football, in a curiously unformed way. *Football Memories* is, frankly, a mess: poorly written, badly edited, episodic to the point of incomprehensibility. This is football writing in danger of disappearing up its own tunnel. The World Cup recollections revolve largely around park games between the British and Italian press. We learn more than anyone could wish to know about Glanville's own team, the Chelsea Casuals, and considerably less than we might have hoped about those who "run" our national game. The publisher's description, "a compelling commentary on the changing face of sport", is as accurate as a Virgin train timetable.

This is sad. There is no one better placed than Glanville to write such a commentary. His perspective is broad: his understanding of the politics and the play is second to none. He ought to get on and do it. *Football Memories* could then be quickly and quietly forgotten.



Boys' own story

THE VICTORS
By Stephen E. Ambrose
Simon & Schuster, £20
ISBN 0 684 85628 X
IN A WEEK when the British are said by Germany to be culturally fixated on the Second World War, there is a voracious national appetite for books about that conflict. This one, subtitled *Eisenhower and His Boys: The Men of World War II*, deserves better than it will get here: the British tend to be grudging towards American GIs. This masterful compendium of first-hand GI experiences in the European theatre of war, culled from Ambrose's distinguished work as a military historian, is both stirring in its narrative and touching in its humanity.

Hail, She-ra

ON THE TRAIL OF THE WOMEN WARRIORS
By Lyn Webster Wilde
Constable, 18.99
ISBN 0 09 478080 3
CRUDE caricatures of women warriors such as Xena, Red Sonja or Lara Croft are less and more than the image of the Amazon in myth and reality. Wilde has identified the essence of the Amazons as *shakti*, "the female partner of a god and the power that she embodies." Their memory as "the losers of history" is traced through the centuries in a book that is better and more independent-minded than most of the works of academic ideologues that the book cheerfully skirts in favour of the author's interpretation of her research.

Bit of Berlin

THE ROOTS OF ROMANTICISM
By Isaiah Berlin
Chatto & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 701 16868 4
PHILOSOPHY is a dangerous thing: revolutions erupt, engorged with blood, like a pox on the body politic, but the infection lies deep and subtle in the roots of the pustule. Isaiah Berlin's 1965 Mellon Lectures ranged widely across the turbulent writings and activities of the Romantics, mostly French and German: Romanticism was not an English taste. Now edited by Henry Hardy and published more or less as spoken, with a CD of the last lecture, they are exhilaratingly thought-provoking.

True heroics

MEN OF VISION
By Amy Zalt Gottlieb
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25
ISBN 0 297 84230 7

IN THE teeth of initial British and Palestinian opposition to Jewish refugee immigration, the Central British Fund for German Jewry worked virtually alone from 1933, and after Kristallnacht in 1938 with other continental refugee organisations, to rescue German and Austrian Jews. Material from newly opened archives enriches an absorbing narrative of this achievement. Gottlieb arranged Oscar Schindler's emigration to Argentina in 1949.

IAIN FINLAYSON

Poignancy in the song of evening

Susan Minot is a writer of admirable economy and accuracy. She can create climate and character in a few lines or a snatch of dialogue. Her first novel, *Monkeys*, is spare, rich and moving: in its brief span it summons up the entire life of a family over a matter of years. I thought it remarkable. *Evening* displays the same gifts. This time, a whole life is suggested, but with the extra dimension of memory. *Monkeys* moved across the years, homing in upon scenes of immediacy.

Evening has an elderly woman, dying of cancer, revisit a fleeting love affair from way back in her girlhood. Those few days of intense emotional and sexual experience are interwoven with moments from other points in her life: with her spells of lucidity as she lies in bed, and with the off-stage murmurings of her children as they watch and wait. This method allows a combination

of absolute recall with a selection of those apparently random frozen moments which typify memory as we all know it. Ann's instant obsession with the stranger who was a fellow guest at her best friend's wedding is given with all the intensity of direct narrative, as she moves from the euphoria of mutual attraction to dismay and doubt when she learns that the man has a pregnant fiancée — and eventually to the anguish of loss.

The evocation of the wedding events is masterly — a time, a place and a whole group of people are sharply presented in a few crucial scenes. A prosperous East Coast family is marrying off one of its daughters. As parents, relatives and fellow guests eddy around them, Ann and Harris fall in love. And then in the wake of the wedding, as the group of young people continue to roister, there is a hideous accident. But the lovers were elsewhere.

PENELOPE LIVELY
EVENING
By Susan Minot
Chatto & Windus, £15.99
ISBN 0 7011 6855 2



in bed together. Death and sex are set in apposition. In this central consummation scene it is not so much a question of the earth moving as of a sustained seismic event, extended over several pages. Susan Minot abandons her usual concision and glance-

ing evocation of mood or manner in favour of all-out linguistic assault. This is far less effective and I trust it is not going to become a habit, because I strength is this ability to o jure up the flavour of a pl with a few seminal furnishings, and a person from throwaway line of dialogue

In *Evening* this serves her perfectly. The whole areas of Ann's life are captured within a few or two. Admittedly this is abbreviated to its emotive core — marriages, liaisons, children. Not much by that. But Ann is approaching death, and that is a situation which wonderfully concentrates the mind. Susan Minot's emotive handling of theme, and her spare prose, confirm an impressive talent.

Penelope Lively's latest *Spiderweb*, is published by Viking at £15.99.

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

BOOKS

Awe for a Shakespeare in love with humanity

Bardolatry, unashamed and unabashed, flows like
divine wine for the master who 'invented our feelings'

Harold Bloom immediately pre-empted the more ferocious or fashionable criticism describing himself as "Bloom Bantustan Bardolatry". There are occasions when he fulfils his 19th-century destiny; he out-Halits Hazlitt and he might have written, with the Lambs, *Tales from Shakespeare*. But the Lambs are silent now and we need the voice of Bloom to blow away the skein of academic discourse which is woven ever more tightly around the vowels and plays and poems which are unhelpfully called "texts".

His wonderfully rhetorical account of Shakespeare's plays is a triumphantly late 20th-century work, however, scolding Marxist, feminist and post-structuralist criticism in its assertion of human values. Bloom's favourite verb is "worship" and its favoured adjective is "rapt"; between these two poles he takes his way steadily through the greatest of Shakespearean drama.

He elucidates the plot, he meditates upon character and destiny, he falls in and out of love with several major and minor characters — one, for example, in *Leah*, is "madly attractive" — and berates actors and filmmakers and producers for failing to live up to the "mortal god" who "invented the human as we continue to know it" and who "invented our feelings".

Perhaps Shakespeare invented Bloom himself, since the American critic refers to himself at one point as "a parody of Falstaff" — yet, of course, Falstaff parodies himself. And that is Bloom's point: Shakespeare outmanages and outdances any attempt to analyse him.

Where is Shakespeare himself in all of this? Is he homosexual, or Catholic, or septic, or patriotic? He is all of these and none of them, a man who in Bloom's account is possessed by so rich an inner freedom that he rises above the circumstances of his century. Borges once wrote

that "all men who repeat a line of Shakespeare are William Shakespeare"; he has an identity so fluid that it can still encompass everyone. He held no beliefs, and had no opinions, beyond the context of his immediate work. From the evidence of this volume it is by no means clear that, in the inmost recesses of his being beyond the social self, he ever believed in God.

The fruit of Bloom's veneration can be sweet indeed. There are some fine insights — such as that concerned with the stubborn uninterpretability of *Julius Caesar* where the relationship of Brutus and Caesar is never clarified. There are some memorable phrases, also, such as the "cognitive music" of *Love's Labour's Lost*. But Bloom's central vision is that of character, in particular those of Falstaff and Hamlet which for him run the gamut of the human. He is instinctively right in his readings of the plays since he arrives at his judgments by



Peter Ackroyd

a kind of empathetic reasoning. By a strange but necessary paradox Bloom's method is the reverse of Shakespeare's: whereas the Bard's genius flows outward toward characters through a magnetised language, Bloom's talent lies in incorporating them within his own style.

So Bloom booms out. The effect is like hearing the plays through a series of stage whispers, but it is exhilarating. It is reported that the author has a photographic memory — and that may account for his full immersion in each play. Reading his descriptions of *Cymbeline* or *Romeo and Juliet* affords the strangest sensation of being there.

Samuel Butler once wrote that "the great characters live as truly as the memory of dead men. For the life after death, it is not necessary that a man or woman have lived." That is why, in Bloom's reckoning, *Leah* or *Cleopatra* still exist through Shakespeare rather than through history. He says, wisely, that "when we think of the Devil, we are as likely to reflect on Iago as on Satan". We are all self-reflective because of Hamlet. Thus the influence of these plays is "incalculable": "his universality", he writes, "will defeat you: his plays know more than you do."

It is instructive and necessary to experience Bloom's "awe" which he translates as "wonder, gratitude, shock, amazement" in a period when awe for any author is out of fashion. What else should a critic be but a celebrant of literature?

But, at the risk of my sounding like one of those academic reductionists whom Bloom deprecates, it may be possible to question the subtitle of this study. Bloom constantly repeats the phrase "the invention of the human" without ever properly explaining it. The fact that the jacket of the book has a detail from Michelangelo's *Sistine ceiling* might suggest that other artists have some claim to that eminence: the reader of the New Testament might surmise that there the "human" is illuminated as well as the divine. The question remains open.

Yet this is unquestionably a fine work of Shakespearean criticism, filled with animation and fired by a determination to extol the virtues of great literature at a time when literature itself lies upon the margins of human awareness. Bloom is a scholar who has subdued his scholarship in order to speak freely and loudly about those values which matter most to him. They should also matter most to the world.

SHAKESPEARE
The Invention of the Human
By Harold Bloom
Fourth Estate, £25
ISBN 1 841 15047 9

Lo and behold the debunker

Yet another book comes close to telling us that nearly everything in the Bible is wrong, says Gabriel Josipovici

Hardly a day goes by without a book on the Bible being published which aims to show everyone who got things wrong till now and that its work will finally put the record straight. These books are not written to outrage cranks. They are the result of years of scholarship and a great deal of thought. For the first 50 pages or so it is almost persuaded, but then the fact that everything is claimable by the new theory seems to seem oppressive: at by the time one has reached page 100 one has lost interest: it is all too neat, too perfect, the author has sealed every gap — so one ceases to believe him.

This book does not quite fall in that category, but it comes piously close. Thompson is Professor of Old Testament Studies at the University of Co-

penhagen, and he has an intimate knowledge of the historical geography of the Near East. His central thesis is simple and persuasive: for too long archaeologists working in the area have been misled by the myth that what the Bible recounts must have a basis in reality; at the same time theologians have been misled by the myth that, with a few adjustments here and there, the findings of archaeology are underpinning their views of the growth and development of the religious understanding of the Hebrew people.

A dispassionate look at the evidence, says Thompson, shows that none of this stands up. The archaeological evidence simply finds no place for an Egyptian captivity, an exodus into Canaan or the rise of a monarchy centred in Jerusalem. As for the Babylonian

exile, the destruction of Jerusalem and the eventual restoration under Cyrus, the evidence shows that this is a fiction loosely based on the deportation policies of the Babylonians and Persians.

Definitely he describes the history of the region as it appears to the archaeologist from Neolithic times to the 1st century BC, bringing out the way in which climate affected population movements and these in turn affected the delicate ecology of the region. He brings out convincingly the ways in which the trade economy of the region developed under the twin constraints of climatic change and geopolitics — the constant jostling for power in this area of Egypt in the South and other empires in the North and East, and eventually, the Romans in the West. By the time he has finished there does indeed seem to be no



No more than myth? Moses and Aaron from Dreamworks' *The Prince of Egypt* (Thames & Hudson, £24.99)

place for the people and events recounted by the Bible. But how then to understand the Bible? This, the second wing of Thompson's revisionist dichotomy, is much less persuasive and much more dependent on his own, sometimes bizarre, assumptions.

The Bible, he suggests, was mainly written as late as the 1st century BC and reflects the sectarianism of the Maccabean era projected back into founding myths and legends: "The Bible is not a history of anyone's past. The story of the chosen and rejected Israel that it presents is a philosophical metaphor of a mankind that has lost its way."

The stories of the Bible are meant to teach: thus the stories of Saul and David teach us that God has to be obeyed unquestioningly; the books of Job and Jonah are satires on false views of the deity, mocking the gods rather than the Greek playwrights did;

THE BIBLE IN HISTORY
How Writers Create a Past
By Thomas Thompson
Jonathan Cape, £25
ISBN 0 224 03977 6



Moses, David and Jesus are mythic figures, "sons of God". Who show us that we cannot reach God directly, can only imagine Him through intermediaries. In essence: "One could well cite Plato's Socrates as expressing the central ideology of the Bible's composition:

to know oneself is the beginning of wisdom." There is so much wrong with this it is difficult to know where to start. I sympathise with Thompson in his belief that post-Enlightenment Europe imposed a view of history and reality on the Bible it was never meant to bear, that to search for "the historical Moses" or "the historical Jesus" will not ground our belief any more firmly and will only stop us seeing what the Bible does have to offer.

But his rather Protestant belief that "to walk in God's way" is simply to be a good person and his failure to see that the biblical stories are rarely black and white mean that he never tackles the central issue. And that is that these stories ask to be read as having happened and that for Jews and Christians their belief rests on remembering something — the Exodus, the

Passion — which these narratives tell us happened. This is quite different from the myths and legends and belief systems of other ancient Near Eastern cultures and needs, if not explanation, at least acknowledgement.

Thompson provides no footnotes to his 400 pages of argument, so there is no means of telling if he has taken these issues on board; and, since he tends to repeat chunks of his argument at frequent intervals like a mantra, the feeling grows that he is talking to himself and not to others. One wishes that he would stop and listen to the text and occasionally admit that there are mysteries and puzzles. *Hineni*, here am I, is one of the most frequent expressions of the Hebrew Bible, picked up by Jesus when He says, in the Garden, "not as I will but as thou wilt". One wishes some of that openness and humility had passed on to Professor Thompson.

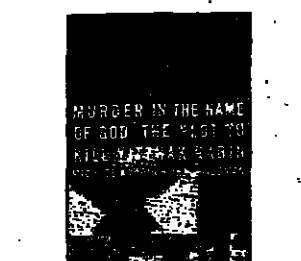
Israel's enemy within

In the summer of 1994, a shy, gruff-voiced Israeli addressed the US Congress. "I, military ID number 343, retired general in the 1st Defence Forces in the 1st, consider myself to be a soldier in the army of peace to-day." Two years later, at a peace rally in Tel Aviv, Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated — not by a Hamas suicide bomber, nor a death squad dispatched by Saddam Hussein, but by a young Jewish zealot prepared to obey only the 613 eternal commandments of the Torah. One of the Sons of Light had given God a helping hand in the Divine Plan to destroy the Oslo agreement. Yigal Amir, the son of Yemeni immigrants, was studying law and computer science at Bar-Ilan University. His favourite reading included Fredrick Forsyth's *The Day of the Jackal* — de Gaulle, he felt, had done to France just what Ibin was doing to Israel. He prepared himself for the order for almost two years, though he eventually shot Ibin with a revolver, he and his accomplices fantasised out a range of schemes, including use of a booby-trapped microphone, an anti-missile and floating explosives (to be sent through the time Minister's plumbing). Michael Karpin and Ina Friedman believe that the official inquiry radically reduced a murder of the Israeli Prime Minister to a one-off lapse in security. As in the inquiry into the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre two years previously, the panel confined itself to establishing the facts. Karpin and Friedman set themselves the much more ambitious task of scrutinising the



Untimely death: the late Yitzhak Rabin with Shimon Peres

IAN MCINTYRE
MURDER IN THE NAME OF GOD
By Michael Karpin and Ina Friedman
Granta, £13.99
ISBN 1 86207 241 8



religious, social and political factors that fuelled the attack. In the euphoria created by Israel's victory in the Six-Day War, an old but still potent idea had revived among a small group of religious Zionists — that the messianic redemption was finally at hand. After Likud came to power in 1977 under Menachem Begin, the drive to settle the occupied territories powered forward as official policy. By the 1990s, the gulf between the secular and religious camps in Israel yawned dangerously. But as Karpin and Friedman reveal, these strains ran deeper than clear-cut political difference — a century after the birth of Zionism, the true fault-line in Israeli society lay exposed: "On one side of it, a community that saw clerical-

ism, messianism and ethnocentrism as the continuation of the Zionist revolution towards a purer expression of authentic Jewish values. On the other, those that saw the rejection of modernism, pluralism and pragmatism as a throwback to the ills that Zionism emerged to cure."

By the early 1990s, certain orthodox rabbis had revived two ancient halachic principles — *din rodef* (the duty to kill a Jew who imperils the life or property of another Jew) and *din moser* (the duty to eliminate a Jew who intends to surrender another Jew to non-Jewish authorities). The authors believe that Amir sought and received rabbinical confirmation that Rabin fell under the rubric of *din rodef*.

They also demonstrate that in spite of American Jewry's overwhelming support for the Oslo agreement, incitement against Rabin was even more strident in America than in Israel. Within days of the murder, defence funds for Amir were established in Brooklyn, and ultra-Orthodox Jews were appealing to Rabin's name the curse "May his name and memory be blotted out", a malediction more often applied to the likes of Stalin and Hitler.

I accuse the author of losing the true plot

When Emile Zola wrote his highly charged polemic, *J'accuse*, in 1898, his target was the high-ranking officers in the French Army who were responsible for framing Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer accused of passing secrets to the Germans. While Zola was found guilty of libel and sentenced to a year in jail (which he avoided by fleeing to England), he was, of course, proved right. Yet it was 1906 before Dreyfus was fully vindicated. Even then he could not believe the degree of anti-Semitism prevalent in France.

The eponymous hero of Bernice Rubens's novel is Sir Alfred Dreyfus, head of Britain's leading school. He, too, is framed: a child is killed and the murder blamed on him. There is a conspiracy orchestrated by the far right wing, while Dreyfus himself denies his Jewishness.

JULIA NEUBERGER
I, DREYFUS
By Bernice Rubens
Little, Brown, £16.99
ISBN 0 316 64809 4



Reading this beautifully written novel, one is left with a deep unease. Despite some evidence of far right-wing activity in Britain, it is hard to believe in recruitment to it within a leading public school. The reader's credulity is further stretched by coincidences that lead to Dreyfus's framing: the collector of Hitler memorabilia living in the same Kent village, or the hostile teacher who is the lead recruiter.

anti-Semitism is unacceptable. That in itself makes Rubens's scenario unbelievable.

But it is the denouement which fails to convince. As the ends are neatly tied, with Dreyfus vindicated, he goes on a pilgrimage with his family to Paris, where his grandparents lived, and then to Auschwitz. While there are some Jews of the Dreyfus variety, of whom many have relatives who perished in the Holocaust, this end is too neat. While there is a journey many of us need to make to follow the route our relatives took to their unspeakable end, to feature that pilgrimage within this plot cheapens the debt of memory. It labours the horror with a sledgehammer, and it demonstrates no sensitivity to private pain, nor to the explosion of imagination as reality beckons through the sense of place.

So, though Rubens writes like a dream, her plot both infuriates and lacks credibility. Her central message — that Jewish identity is not to be denied — is lost in the irritation at being caught in a web of intrigue, unbearable pain, and a lack of subtlety in the depiction of characters emotionally described but, other than Dreyfus's own, barely felt.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report February 18 1999

House of Lords

Consecutive sentence after recall to prison

Regina v Lowe

Regina v Leask

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Dyson and Mr Justice Brian Steyn [Judgment February 12]

Where an offender, who committed a new offence while released on licence, was ordered under section 40 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991 to return to prison to serve the unexpired part of his sentence, section 102 of the Criminal Justice Act 1998 did not prohibit the court from imposing a sentence for the new offence to run consecutively to the period of return provided the offender had not been released from the section 40 term before the consecutive term was passed.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when:

(i) Dismissing an appeal by Trevor Lowe against a sentence of three years imposed by Judge Kain at Kingston at Leeds Crown Court following his plea of guilty to robbery committed while he was released on licence in respect of a sentence of two years detention in a young offender institution for an earlier robbery.

The judge ordered that he return to prison for the outstanding part of his earlier sentence and that the new sentence should run consecutively to that part.

(ii) granting an application by Stephen Leask for leave to appeal, but dismissing his appeal against a sentence of 12 months imprisonment imposed by Mr Recorder Graeme Williams, QC, at Derby Crown Court, for offences committed while he was released on licence in respect of a 30-month sentence.

The recorder ordered his return to prison for the unexpired period

of the earlier sentence and that the new sentence should run consecutively to that unexpired part.

Each defendant challenged the order made on the ground that section 102 of the 1998 Act precluded the court from imposing a sentence for the new offence which was consecutive to the term ordered under section 40 of the 1991 Act.

Mr Ian Storey for Lowe; Mr Richard Ace for Leask; Mr David Perry for Mr Martin Haigh and Miss Julie Warburton for the Crown; Miss Sally Bennett-Jenkins as amicus curiae.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the 1991 Act drew an important distinction between short and long term prisoners, defined by section 33.

Since entitlement to release became closely dependent on the overall length of the term to be served, it became more important than before, in the case of multiple sentences, to determine their overall length with precision.

To meet that need section 51(2), as originally enacted, provided that for the purposes of any reference in Part II of the 1991 Act to the term to which a person had been sentenced, or which, or part of which he had served, consecutive terms and terms which were wholly or partly concurrent were to be treated as a single term.

Section 40 of the 1991 Act was passed to fill the loophole in the sentencing regime whereby offenders released from prison with the benefit of remission or parole before expiry of the nominal term of their sentences could not be ordered to serve the remitted balance if they offended again during the nominal term of their sentences.

It became clear, however, that the apparently straightforward for-

mula in section 51(2) for calculating the length of the single term was difficult to apply in some cases and produced anomalies.

To address those problems the section had been amended by section 101 of the 1998 Act to provide:

"(2) For the purposes of any reference in this Part... to the term of imprisonment to which a person has been sentenced or which, or part of which, he has served, consecutive terms and terms which are wholly or partly concurrent shall be treated as a single term if - (a) the sentences were passed on the same occasion; or (b) where they were passed on different occasions, the person has not been released under this Part at any time during the period beginning with the first and ending with the last of those occasions."

From section 51(2)(b) it was clear that Parliament did not intend two sentences imposed on different occasions to be treated as a single term if the offender had been released from the first of the sentences under Part II of the 1991 Act.

The defendants' argument depended on section 102 of the 1998 Act which provided: "(1) A court sentencing a person to a term of imprisonment shall not order or direct that the term shall commence on the expiration of any other sentence of imprisonment from which he has been released under Part II of the 1991 Act."

"(2) Expressions used in this section shall be construed as if they were contained in that Part."

They had submitted that when an offender was ordered under section 40 of the 1991 Act to serve an unexpired part of an earlier sentence, the court which so ordered

was not imposing a new sentence but reactivating an old sentence, from which the offender had been released under Part II of the 1991 Act and that therefore the imposition of a sentence consecutively to such a term was specifically precluded by section 102.

The short answer to that submission was that by virtue of section 40(4)(a) of the 1991 Act, the period ordered for return was to be taken as a sentence of imprisonment for the purposes of Part II and there was nothing in section 102 to preclude the imposition of a term consecutive to that sentence at any time before the offender had been released from it.

The defendant had particularly relied on *R v Worthington and District Justices, Ex parte Farley (No 1)* [1998] 1 WLR 819, but that case had turned on the construction of section 133 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980.

The return period under section 40 was taken to be a sentence of imprisonment for the purposes of Part II of the 1991 Act in order to ensure that account was taken of it when determining the length of the single term to which the offender was subject. It could not be regarded as a "sentence of imprisonment" from which he had been released for purposes of section 102.

The defendants had founded their submission on an article in *Sentencing News* (Issue 4, December 16, 1998) entitled "New legislation" where it was argued that an order for return was not a new sentence but the reactivation of an old; that the reactivated sentence and the sentence for the later offence were not passed on the same occasion and that the offender had been released from the earlier sentence.

Therefore, it was said, the section 40 term and the new term were not to be treated as a single term and since the offender had been released from the earlier sentence section 102 had to be understood to prohibit a court from imposing a new term consecutive to an order for return under section 40.

The court could not accept that argument.

For the purposes of Part II of the 1991 Act an order for return was to be taken to be a sentence of imprisonment: see section 40(4)(a).

It was section 40(4)(b) required, a sentence imposed for later offences was concurrent with or consecutive to the period of return ordered under section 40, the two terms would satisfy the requirements of section 51(2)(a) or (b) and would therefore form part of a single term provided the offender was not released from the section 40 term before the sentence for the new offences was passed.

Nothing in section 102 prohibited the imposition of a new term consecutive to an order for return under section 40 because the section 40 term was for purposes of Part II a sentence of imprisonment which the offender was ordered to serve and from which he had not been released.

Therefore, section 102 did not prohibit the imposition of a sentence to run consecutively to any period of return ordered under section 40 provided the offender was not released from the section 40 term before the consecutive term was passed.

Solicitors: Norrie Waite & Co, Sheffield; Durans, Derby; Crown Prosecution Service, Sheffield; Treasury Solicitor.

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Redrow Group plc

Before Lord Steyn, Lord Goff of Chelvey, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hutton and Lord Millett [Speeches February 11]

The taxpayer company, Redrow Group plc, was entitled to deduct as input tax the value added tax charged to it by estate agents pursuant to a scheme whereby, to encourage sales of houses built by it, it agreed to pay the agents' fees on sale of prospective purchasers' existing properties.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Redrow from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Mr Justice McCullough) [The Times July 3, 1997; [1997] STC 1053], which had allowed an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise from Mr Justice Potts [1996] STC 365. The judge had dismissed the commissioners' appeal from the Manchester Value Added Tax Tribunal which had allowed Redrow's appeal from the commissioners.

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Most prospective purchasers had an existing home to sell and could not proceed with the purchase unless and until they had a buyer.

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Redrow had deducted input tax in respect of the agents' fees. The commissioners disputed the deduction.

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Bargains of the week: from a half-term visit to a chocolate factory to a Canary Island cruise and a trip to San Francisco



PACK YOUR BAGS

A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices

BRITISH ISLES

CHOCOLATE for half-term is the treat on offer from Lunn Poly, which has organised a day at Cadbury World, Birmingham, and two nights' half-board from tomorrow at the city's Apollo Hotel. This Half-term Break costs £220 for two adults and two children. Details from Holiday Shops.

THE LAKES in all their February bleakness and beauty can be combined with relaxing in a pool and sauna on a visit to the Crown Hotel, Wetherby, near Carlisle, available from Superbreak. Two nights' half-board costs £98 this month. Details: 01904 679999.

FINDING a room is always the biggest problem for

punters wanting to attend the Cheltenham Festival in mid-March but Pontins has an answer if you enjoy a Hi-de-Hi atmosphere and don't mind an hour's drive to the course. Four nights at the Brean Sands Centre in Somerset from March 15 and three days' admission to the racecourse's Courage Enclosure costs from £109. Details: 0870-604 5606.

COUNTRY cottages will be at bargain prices again from next week, with half-term over. A week in a cottage with views of Dartmoor and sleeping four costs £141 from Farm and Cottage Holidays. Details: 01237 479698.

JAZZ in Jersey can be enjoyed on a holiday with Modern Hotels. Five nights' half-board from March 25, return catamaran crossings from Weymouth and entry to jazz sessions, featuring the Alex Welsh Legacy Band and others, costs from £191. Details: 01534 59529.

WILD geese, rugged scenery and the odd dram are the main attractions on an eight-day tour of Islay and Jura with Naturetrek. It costs £795 with full board and starts from Glasgow on April 7. Details: 01962 733051.

EUROPE

SEEN the film? Now visit the setting. Fans of *Shakespeare in Love* can spend three nights with breakfast at the Giulietta e Romeo hotel in Verona for £339 including return flights from Gatwick with Crystal Premier Italy. Details: 0181-390 5554.

CYPRUS is warming up but, if it's still not hot enough for the beach, Olympic Odyssey includes free car hire in its package from Gatwick on February 28. The week's self-catering holiday in Limassol costs £196. Details: 0181-343 9090.

PARIS for three nights at a two-star hotel for £44 is on offer from The Hotel Directory until the end of the month but you must arrange your own travel. Another good deal is four nights' B&B for £119 including return flights from Manchester. This Airways trip from March 1 is available from Co-op Travelcare. Details: The Hotel Directory 0181-770 0123; Co-op, 0541 500388.

CLIFFS, spectacular and beautiful, also exist on the other side of the Channel, especially at Entretat, Normandy, and you can walk them — and

country lanes — on a short holiday with Belle France, available from March 1. Three nights' accommodation with some meals, guides and a Channel crossing cost from £179. Details: 01797 223777.

BUDAPEST, split by the Danube and with magnificent architecture, provides a weekend break with a difference and is available from £250 for two nights in a three-star hotel and return flights from Heathrow from Leisure Direction. Details: 0181-324 3030.

CANARY Island cruises are selling out fast, according to Festival Cruises, but cabins are still available for the March 4 sailing from Savona, Italy, which also calls at ports in Madeira, Morocco and Spain. Prices start at £886 for the 11-night trip, return flights from Gatwick and full board. Details: 0171-436 0827.

EASTER is the most exciting time to visit the Andalusian cities of Seville, Cordoba and Granada, and Explore Worldwide has a 15-day tour from March 29. Walking in the mountains and the Grazalema National Park also form part of the trip which costs £730, including flights and B&B. Details: 01252 760100.



Easter treat: watch the Holy Week processions in Seville

LONG HAUL

CRUISING the western Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico costs from £799, including return flights to Miami with Seafarer. Sailings are available on February 26 and March 20 and the 11-night trips take in the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Venezuela and Mexico. Details: 01202 685500.

SIWA, an ancient oasis town, and a day on the beach are among the more unusual outings on a week's fully escorted tour of northern Egypt with The Imaginative Traveller. Fly from Heathrow on February 28, tour Cairo and Alexandria and pay £485. Details: 0181-742 8612.

MAURITIUS is never a cheap destination and the 12-night trip for £799 with Tradewinds is as good as you are likely to get. The price includes a return flight from Manchester on March 8 and B&B at a beach hotel. Flights from Heathrow available for an extra £99. Details: 0870-751 0003.

BEACH hotels in both Kenya and Sri Lanka are available for a fortnight with half-board at the discounted price of £599

with Tropical Places. The offer includes flights and applies to limited departures in early March. Details: 01342 825123.

EAST AFRICA is also available at a bargain price for independent travellers or those wanting to visit friends in the region from Bridge The World. Return flights from Heathrow to Nairobi are on offer for £280, including tax and with free connections from several UK airports, but you must come back by March 31. Details: 0171-911 0900.

CALIFORNIA Dreamin' can become reality with Funway Holidays, which is offering a week's car hire and return flights from Heathrow to San Francisco and Los Angeles from £319 until March 22. Details: 0181-466 0222.

● All prices based on two travelling together and sharing a room unless otherwise stated.

WEEKEND TRAVEL

See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holiday

AIRLINE NETWORK

1,000 leading scheduled airlines

| USA & CANADA | USA BEST BUYS | AUSTRALIA & NZ | FAR EAST HOLIDAY OFFERS | REST OF THE WORLD | BUSINESS CLASS |
|---|---|---|---|-------------------|----------------|
| CHARLOTTE £195 SEATTLE £231 PITTSBURGH £224 N. ORLEANS £251 DETROIT £234 DENVER £257 HOUSTON £239 LAS VEGAS £257 TORONTO £243 CALGARY £234 DALLAS £245 VANCOUVER £234 PHOENIX £251 HAWAII £248 LAS VEGAS THE HOLIDAY Departures 3/24/99 - 3/25/99 Inc. 70% 3* hotel £367 USA HOTELS ORLANDO £118 ppp LOS ANGELES £112 ppp BOSTON £130 ppp NEW YORK £134 ppp GREAT VALUE CAR RENTAL Alamo £16 per week | NEW YORK £165 WASHINGTON £165 BOSTON £167 CHICAGO £198 ATLANTA £224 MIAMI £231 ORLANDO £231 LOS ANGELES £246 SAN FRANCISCO £246 HUNDREDS OF OTHER US CITIES AVAILABLE | SYDNEY £503 MELBOURNE £537 BRISBANE £507 ADELAIDE £537 AUCKLAND £523 CAIRNS £544 AUSTRALIAN VISA SERVICE AVAILABLE AUSTRALIA SPECIAL Departures up to 31/3/99 £457 NEW ZEALAND HOTELS £16 ppp AUSTRALIAN HOTELS £18 ppp CAR RENTAL £19 per day HOTEL PASSES £32 ppp QANTAS BRITISH AIRWAYS Preferred Agent | BANGKOK 5nights 2* hotel 01, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 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A marriage of two vitamins

Supplements are being touted as the cure-all of the Nineties — from angina to infertility. Amy Anderson assesses their merits

Vitamins have become part of our lives. Everybody knows that taking Vitamin C helps to prevent a cold, that a lack of it gives you scurvy, and that too much leaves you resembling an extra from a Tango advert. And with the growth of vitamin awareness has come a growth in vitamin research. Millions of pounds are now dedicated to finding the perfect amount of Vitamin E to boost male fertility or Vitamin D to produce perfect skin. It has become something of medical "pop chart", with vitamins vying for the top spot.

Vitamin E has made a strong comeback this year with the discovery of several innovative uses. For some couples who have difficulty in conceiving, researchers in Israel may have found a vita-

min solution. The wives of men who took 200mg of Vitamin E for a month were shown to have increased fertility. It is believed that the vitamin may help to protect sperm against cell damage.

For those who suffer from heartburn or angina, Japanese researchers also suggest Vitamin E. In a study of 104 people, those with the lowest levels of Vitamin E suffered more from chest pain. When their normal medication could not provide relief, 300mg of Vitamin E supplements were given and their symptoms improved. Although the reason for this is

unclear, researchers believe that it may be linked to the effect of Vitamin E on cholesterol-based plaques around the heart which cause painful contractions.

Vitamin E may also extend life expectancy, according to a large-scale study carried out last year by the National Institute on Ageing. After reviewing the results of a six-year study of more than 11,000 elderly people, researchers found that the use of Vitamin E sup-

plements lowered mortality rates by 27 per cent, reduced the risk of death from heart disease by 41 per cent and cut cancer mortality by 22 per cent.

Unfortunately, natural sources of Vitamin E are limited unless you have a craving for mackerel and wheatgerm. The recommended daily allowance (RDA) is 10mg, although this has recently been challenged by a Veris Research Information Service

study that concluded: "Vitamin E intakes much higher than the current RDA can contribute to or improve human health."

Vitamin C, one of the most consistently popular vitamins of modern times, has only made research news recently through its marriage with Vitamin E. The combination of these two vitamins has been shown to help in the battle against skin damage caused by the sun. A recent report in

the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* revealed that people taking Vitamin E alongside Vitamin C suffered less skin damage from ultraviolet rays than test subjects who took a placebo.

These two vitamins have recently been marketed in a new form with the advent of sprays, which apply concentrated vitamin directly on to the skin. Vitamin C has been used for some time in lotions such as Celex-C, which claims

to counter (but not to reverse) the effects of ageing. Vitamin E, which acts as an antioxidant, has been bottled by The Body Shop as a "Vitamin E face mist" spray. This apparently has a noticeably beneficial effect on the complexion within a short time.

Vitamin B is trailing just behind E and C, with recent research highlighting its apparent potential to improve the functioning of the brain.

Dr I.H. Rosenberg, writing in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, claims that Vitamin B may prevent some of the decline in cognitive function associated with

ageing, and even suggests that some losses of cognitive function may be reversible. Daily supplements of ten times the RDA of seven B-vitamins over a year apparently led to improvements in mental vigour, including memory, attention span and reaction time.

Finally, it would appear that L.H. Leung, a surgeon from Hong Kong Central Hospital, may have finally cracked a problem that has frustrated medical science for thousands of years — acne.

Mr Leung, publishing his findings in *Green Tree Nutrition News*, states that acne is caused by a lack of para-oxanthic acid — a vitamin — and that the condition can be cured by remedying this deficiency. However, the veracity of this has yet to be proved.

E-mail exerciser keeps you trim and in touch

Fitness enthusiasts who are fed up with training home alone are going online to find company while they exercise.

The super-smooth Concept II rowing machine and the stylish wooden Water Rower can now be linked to the Internet so that you can stay fit and find friends at the same time.

By joining an online health club such as Oxygen (£35 joining fee and then £7 a month), you will have access to other home exercisers worldwide on the Web.

Once you have found a training partner with a similar piece of equipment, you can then challenge him or her to races at mutually convenient training times. This should also stop you shirking because if you miss a scheduled session, you may receive an e-mail from a training partner asking: "Why weren't you there?"

Exercising at home, whether online or not, is becoming increasingly trendy and also much more energetic. About 40 per cent of people who exercise now do some or all of it in their homes. The traditional reason for working out at home is to save on travel time to the gym and membership costs. While this remains a strong incentive for

Gym equipment for the home is becoming ever more sophisticated. Tania Alexander reports

some people, there is also a new younger breed of more athletic home exercisers who want to supplement the exercise they do in the gym with training at home.

This new demand has resulted in more sophisticated equipment on the market for home use. "People are now looking for top quality equipment that is as good as the machines they use in the gym," says Iraj Farrokh, the owner of Ultimate Fitness, a fitness equipment shop in North London that specialises in the top end of the market. Treadmills are one of the most popular pieces of equipment and his customers are prepared to pay up to £4,000 for something at the top of the range. "Whatever your budget, always buy the best you can afford," says Mr Farrokh.

If possible, avoid mail order unless you are already familiar with that piece of equipment. Other things to consider are whether you have enough space to house it (many items such as treadmills now come in space-saving fold-

away designs), and whether the machine feels stable and smooth.

If you do not buy a machine that is good enough quality, the chances are that you will not enjoy using it and it will just be shoved in the corner and used as a coat-stand.

The UK home fitness market is worth about £120 million. Reebok has recently jumped on the home-fitness bandwagon and is now putting its name to a wide range of products.

Its portable fitness range was launched last November and includes expensive but attractive dumbbell sets, a superb folding mat, skipping ropes and resistant tubing. Next month Reebok is launching its larger cardiovascular equipment, which will include bikes, treadmills and an elliptical machine.

As we approach the millennium, manufacturers are working hard to make exercising at home more interesting. Tunturi, one of the leading brands of home exercise bikes in this country, has recently in-

stalled its T-Generation of bikes with a computer that provides an interactive programme to act as your personal trainer. Once you have set your goals, such as losing weight or improving fitness, the computer will calculate how often you need to train, for how long, and at what intensity in order to see results.

According to research by the equipment manufacturer Gold's Gym, women (43 per cent) are considerably more likely than men (30 per cent) to exercise at home. The big boom in women's fitness is strength-training. Research now shows that to lose weight properly in the long term, you have to use weights.

The more muscle you have, the higher your metabolic rate. Although women may ultimately feel happier using resistance tubing to tone up, according to Mary-Anne Dalton from CSA Fitness, suppliers of Gold's Gym equipment, an increasing number of women are using dumbbells at home because it is such an effective way to tone up and add curves.

Further information: Oxygen (0181-287 5794), Concept II (0115-945 3522), Water Rower (0181-909090), Tunturi (0115-981 0205), Ultimate Fitness (0171-435 5046), CSA Fitness (01926 622405), Reebok Fitness (0171-816 5353).



Long-distance rowers are no longer lonely: they compete on their machines with others via the Internet

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SNOOKER

Higgins retains ambition at home

By PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS, Stephen Hendry and Alan McManus, who have won 41 world-ranking tournaments between them, remained on course to provide a home-grown champion at the Scottish Open in Aberdeen yesterday.

Higgins, who struggled to defeat Leigh Griffiths 5-3 in the first round on Monday, showed a considerable improvement during a 5-0 whitewash of Stuart Pettman. Even so, the margin of victory was flattering, for Higgins stole the last two frames on the black.

Higgins, who now meets Dave Harold or Nigel Bond, rejected the suggestion that he might find it difficult to raise his game again after winning the Benson and Hedges Masters four days ago. "I have never won a professional title on home soil, so it's an ambition of mine," he said. "Wembley did take a lot out of me, but that doesn't mean I'm not up for this."

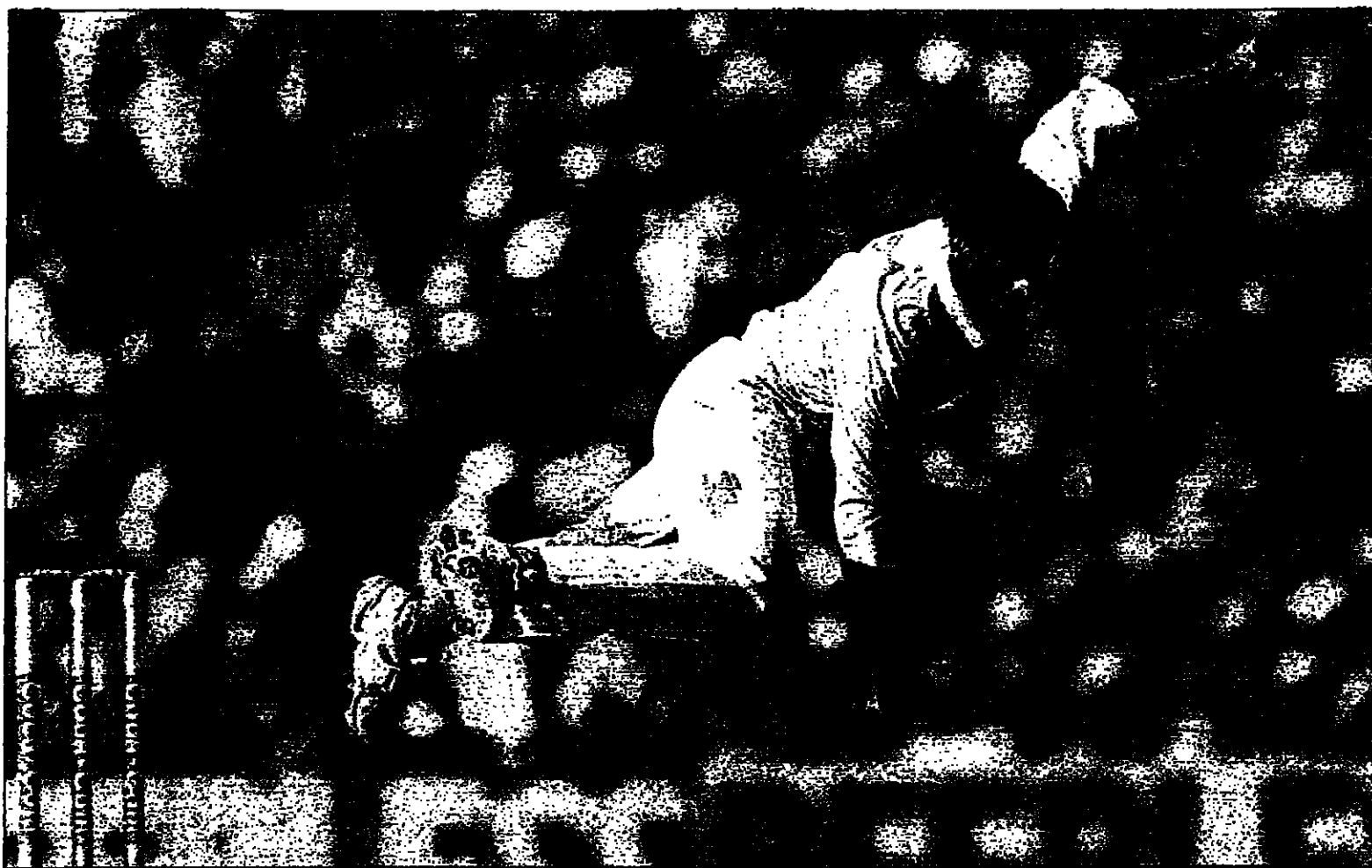
Hendry, playing Nick Pearce for the first time since they met as schoolboys on the BBC series *Junior Pot Black* in 1983, won 5-2, while McManus pulled away from 3-3 to beat Willie Thorne 5-3.

Scottish representation in the last 16 was further swelled by wins for Graeme Dott—5-2 over Quinten Hann—and Chris Small, who ground out a 5-1 victory at the expense of Darren Clarke, the first-round conqueror of Steve Davis.

One Sassenach to excel was John Parrott. The evergreen Liverpooler included breaks of 85 and 109 in a 5-2 win over Leo Fernandez.

Tony Drago, the world No 10, had runs of 74, 50, 51 and 80, but was beaten 5-4 by the methodical Fergal O'Brien. In trouble, with the cue ball tucked under the bottom cushion early in the deciding frame, O'Brien fluked a red to launch a 110 clearance.

"That was unjust on Tony, but I am not going to complain," O'Brien, also responsible for a 134 total clearance, said. He now meets Ken Doherty, his erstwhile practice partner, who defeated Marcus Campbell 5-1.



Shoaib strains every muscle for maximum speed during his impressive burst in the Calcutta Test in which he bowled Tendulkar first ball

CALCUTTA (second day of five): Pakistan, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 12 runs behind India

FOR the first time, Wasim Akram might have been able to convince himself yesterday afternoon that, as a huge billboard opposite its airport proclaims contentiously, Calcutta really is the City of Joy. After being outplayed by India for four sessions, Pakistan recovered tenaciously, sometimes spectacularly, to restore balance to a contest that has enthralled crowds approaching 100,000 on the first two days.

Pakistan were as impressive with the old ball as they had been wasteful with the new as India, from being 147 for two, just 38 runs in arrears, collapsed to 223 all out. The architect of this reversal of fortunes was Shoaib Akhtar, who justified his inclusion ahead of Waqar Younis with a hostile spell that would have satisfied Waqar in his pomp.

When Shoaib, 23, played against South Africa last winter, he was described as being quicker than Allan Donald, which means there may not be a faster bowler in the world. Eventually combining length and direction with late in-

Tendulkar falls to blistering pace

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN CALCUTTA

swing, he removed David and Tendulkar with successive balls in a brief spell that altered the game. He returned to the crease to finish with figures of four for 71, hitting the stumps on each occasion.

"I have seen Waqar as quick at his peak, but Shoaib's bouncer is much faster," Wasim said afterwards. "He bowled off a long run so he gets tired quickly which is why I use him in short bursts."

There are fewer better defensive batsmen than David, whose Test average is more than 50. Yet, although he had been batting for more than two hours and was clearly seeing the ball well, he was helpless to block a delivery that Shoaib speared towards his toes. What came next was pure theatre.

Whenever Tendulkar swag-

gers to the crease, spectators rise and clap in unison. They had barely settled again when Shoaib, high on adrenalin, sprinted in from 30 yards and beat India's champion for pace to such a degree that he was still in mid-stroke when his stumps were disturbed.

Tendulkar refused to look back after his first good duck in Test cricket as murmurs of disbelief replaced the stunned silence in the stands. It was as though a royal death had been announced. At the non-striker's end, Sadagopan Ramesh was as astonished as anybody.

Shoaib had bowled Laxman in similar fashion on Tuesday, but on the resumption yesterday he had bowled too short, perhaps over-excited at the pace in the pitch, and became frustrated by the dogged resistance of Kumble, the night-watchman. Ramesh, an up-right left-hander, completed a third successive Test half-century with some graceful strokes square on the off side, but he played others away from his body that suggested his imminent downfall.

Pakistan continued to donate extras generously and Wasim, who also struggled with his run-up in Madras and Delhi, overstepped far too often.

Ramesh had reached 79 after a stay of 210 minutes when Wasim won a leg-before decision. Azharuddin, who has scored five Test hundreds

here, and Ganguly then combined in a useful partnership either side of tea until Saqlain accounted for Ganguly with an off break that bounced viciously. Wasim tempted the India captain to drive carelessly to cover in the next over.

With the tail barely qualified to withstand a now roused attack, India fell two runs short of securing another batting point. Thus, both sides finished with five overall. Twelve more will go to the winners, but no more will be awarded if the game is drawn.

The spin being put on the scoring system by organisers of the Asian Test championship is that these bonus points have added a competitive edge. As though meetings between these fierce rivals could be anything but competitive! If Pakistan withstand the opening overs from Srinath and Prasad today, they will be well-placed. Although they have already lost Wasim to a fine, one-handed catch by Mongia, the reprieve granted to Saeed, who was missed at slip by Azharuddin during a highly-charged final hour, played in fading light, may prove to be costly for India, who appear to be the weaker side under pressure.

SCOREBOARD FROM CALCUTTA

| | |
|---|--|
| PAKISTAN: First Innings 185 (Mohd Khan 70, S Srinath 5 for 48) | S R Tendulkar b Shoaib... 0 |
| Second Innings | M Azharuddin c Saeed b Wasim... 20 |
| Sealed Answer not out... 12 | S C Ganguly c Wasim b Saqlain... 17 |
| Wojtowicz West c Morgan b Srinath... 5 | J Srinath c Mohd b Wasim... 5 |
| Sealed Answer not out... 0 | S R Tendulkar b Shoaib... 0 |
| Extras (w 5) ... 5 | S V Prasad b Shoaib... 0 |
| Total (1 wk) ... 26 | H Singh not out... 8 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-41, 3-147, 4-147, 5-185, 6-205, 7-211, 8-212 | Extras (b 9, nb 3) ... 11 |
| INDIA: First Innings | Total... 223 |
| S Ramesh bow b Wasim... 79 | FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-41, 3-147, 4-147, 5-185, 6-205, 7-211, 8-212 |
| V S Laxman b Wasim... 0 | SCORING: Wasim Akram 24-55-5-3; Shoaib Akhtar 19-21-71-4; Azhar Mahmood 18-45-1; Saqlain 13-31-1; Shoaib Akhtar 24-7-0 |
| A Kumble c Mohd b Ashar... 16 | Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard (South Africa) |
| R Dravid b Shoaib... 24 | |

SWIMMING

O'Neill wipes away oldest world record

FROM CRAIG LORD IN MALMÖ, SWEDEN

SUSAN O'NEILL, of Australia, broke the oldest world swimming record here yesterday, at the eighth round of the World Cup. She shaved 0.28sec off the 200 metres butterfly short-course standard that had stood to Mary T. Meagher, of the United States, since January 2, 1981.

"I'm really shocked," a beaming O'Neill, 25, said, after ending Meagher's 18-year run in 2min 53.75sec. The Olympic champion admitted that the record swim had not been planned and put her time down to the fast early pace set by her rival, Sophia Skou, from Denmark.

A computer-generated race between O'Neill and Meagher would be a strange beast: the American would have trailed the Australian by 1.55sec at halfway and 1.68sec going into the last two lengths, a reflection of Meagher's stamina and speed at the end of her races.

O'Neill, who met Meagher for the first time only two months ago after she had won

a record six titles at the Commonwealth Games, can now look to complete her other main ambitions. She wants to break the long-course record—Meagher holds both the 100 and 200 metres butterfly records—and defend her Olympic title in Sydney.

Her inspiring effort, which brought a five-minute standing ovation at the Aqva-kul pool, rendered all other performances almost irrelevant, though James Hickman's emphatic victory for Great Britain in the 100 metres butterfly over Sabir Muhammad, of the United States, 52.29sec to 53.05sec, was a sight to behold.

Under normal circumstances, Hickman, at St John, could hardly be described as diminutive, yet he was made to look it as Muhammad, the world's fastest black swimmer, looked down on Hickman as the two received their medals—the American was standing on a step several inches below the winner's spot.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

| | |
|---|--|
| FOOTBALL | AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION |
| Kick-off 7.30 unless stated | First division: Crystal Palace v Swindon, Norwich v Millwall |
| STANDARD LEAGUE Cup: Second round: Charlton v Dagenham and Red-brook, Third round: Bolton Wanderers v Barnet | CLUB MATCHES: Kingstonian v Walsley, Luton (7.45) |
| RYAN LEAGUE: Puma Cup: Second round: Barnet v Aylesbury, Third round: Chesham v Watford and Herts; Wyke v Worthing, Wokingham v Truro | RUGBY UNION |
| FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALL-ANCE: Midland Conference: Walsley v Shrewsbury (11.0), North West Conference: Burn v Wigan (12.0) | Chesham and Gloucester Cup |
| FOOTBALL LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester City (7.0), Wrexham v Southend, Second division: Walsley v Walsley, Walsley v Walsley | Second round: Bristol v Northampton (7.30) |
| | Welsh League |
| | First division: Cross Keys v Morriston (7.0) |
| | OTHER SPORT |
| | BASKETBALL: U.S. Basketball League: Semi-final, second leg: Leicester Riders (75) v Dorset Storm (80) (8.0) |
| | ICE HOCKEY: National Superleague: Newcastle Ravens v London Knights (7.15), Manchester Storm v Bradford Bulls (7.30) |

Zinzan gives England a net gain

Netball is a staple ingredient in the sporting diet of every schoolgirl. However, few 11-year-olds—one eye on the towering net, the other on a looming maths lesson—would imagine that it is possible to play professionally. Joanne Zinzan, the new England captain, is doing just that and, on Monday night in Manchester, she leads her team out against South Africa.

It is a challenging match—and one with a history. England, ranked No 4 in the world, unexpectedly defeated South Africa, ranked No 3, to claim the bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games last summer.

"They didn't expect that," Zinzan said, "so there's lots at stake for both teams. We have something to live up to, because a lot of people doubt we could beat South Africa. Our squad was so determined, I'd never felt anything so amazing."

Another surprise was soon to follow. Fiona Murtagh, the long-standing England captain, retired with her previous medal and the selectors chose to look no further than the 5ft 11in Middlesex defender. "I never thought in my life I'd be captain," Zinzan said, "but it's a very proud feeling." She led her side for the first time against Wales last month and, despite playing out of position, enjoyed the 55-26 winning start.

"Good job I was in front of all the girls when we walked out," Zinzan said, "because I found it quite emotional and got a bit choked up. Playing using defence, instead of my usual goal defence, was difficult at times because it means I'm playing down a different side of the court. But it's also a challenge, so I'm sure I'll get there."

Full-time commitment suggests that that will be sooner rather than later. Her world-class performance plan grant has enabled her to relinquish her job at an Enfield leisure centre and concentrate on honing netball skills and toning muscles.

"It's a very physical game," she said. "The top countries are much closer in ability now, so it's always extremely competitive. When you've got two players going for a 50-50 ball, it's inevitable that someone will end up on the floor."

In addition to individually tailored training programmes, England squad players meet regularly for training camps, where they practise against men. "A lot of our strength training is about learning to stay on our feet," Zinzan said. "Playing against men offers us a more physical test. I suppose it does have an image problem for some men, but these are all big guys and good play-

SARAH POTTER



ers. It's already a popular sport for men in New Zealand and Australia and there are quite a few mixed teams now in England."

If there is a wry joke to be made, it will doubtless escape from the lips of Tracey Neville, sister of the Manchester United and England defenders, Gary and Philip. "She's the clown of the pack," Zinzan said. "Her one-liners are very funny and everybody likes having her around."

Any unusual glamour comes courtesy of her surname. "My Dad passed away a few years ago, but he tried to trace the origin of the name," she said. "I don't know how true it is, but it's supposed to go back to an Italian nobleman who was a horseman for Henry VIII. Anyway, when I got married, I'm going to keep the name because I love it so much."

She has been engaged for six years, but it is not a fear of losing her head that is keeping Zinzan from the altar. "It's just trying to fit it in around netball," she said. "Maybe after the world championships are over in the autumn we'll get around to it."

Peter Moxon, her fiancé, is at least partly responsible for Zinzan's single-minded commitment. Both are qualified fitness trainers and he is her coach in the gym. "We used to have rows about it years ago," she said. "I'd end up swearing and he'd walk out, but now he's officially my weights trainer. I have to listen—if I don't like it, I just mumble under my breath."

Zinzan, 27, does at least openly talk about how long she hopes to play international netball. "Up to the world championships in 2003," she said. "The aim then is to have a gold medal, then I might do more coaching. It's always great to see the tiny tots learning the game at school—the future is very exciting."



Zinzan, takes a rest during a practice session at the England netball training ground in Kettering

SNOW REPORTS

| Station | Depth ft m | Conditions | | | Weather (°F) °C | Last snow |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | | Runs to Resort | Off-p | | | |
| USA | | | | | | |
| Austria | | | | | | |
| Kitzbühel | 80 185 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -3 17/2 |
| Chambergl | 60 280 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -8 17/2 |
| Soi | 100 180 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -8 17/2 |
| St Anton | 125 430 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -3 17/2 |
| France | | | | | | |
| Alpe d'Huez | 152 300 | Good | Open | Varied | Cloud | -5 11/2 |
| Argentière | 120 320 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | -1 17/2 |
| Chamonix | 210 250 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -5 17/2 |
| Plafre | 180 405 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -2 17/2 |
| La Clusaz | 120 240 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -1 17/2 |
| La Plagne | 150 280 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -7 17/2 |
| La Tignes | 174 250 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -8 17/2 |
| Les Arcs | 175 280 | Good | Open | Powder | Cloud | -6 17/2 |
| Megeve | 180 280 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -8 17/2 |
| Méribel | 180 285 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -5 17/2 |
| Tignes | 138 270 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -6 17/2 |
| Val Thorens | 180 270 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | -8 17/2 |
| Val d'Isère | 120 300 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -1 17/2 |
| Italy | | | | | | |
| Cervinia | 80 180 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | -5 17/2 |
| Corviglia | 50 70 | Hard | Open | Varied | Sun | -10 14/2 |
| Livigno | 58 158 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | -6 17/2 |
| Switzerland | | | | | | |
| Chamonix | 110 200 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | -5 17/2 |
| Deval | 125 225 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -4 17/2 |
| Grindelwald | 100 240 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -5 17/2 |
| Kitzbühel | 125 210 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -2 17/2 |
| Saas Fee | 80 325 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -2 17/2 |
| St Moritz | 70 158 | Fair | Open | Varied | Snow | -2 17/2 |
| Verbier | 100 200 | Good | Open | Varied | Snow | -2 17/2 |
| Villars | 100 280 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -3 17/2 |
| Wengen | 120 170 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -7 17/2 |
| Zermatt | 95 200 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -3 17/2 |
| United States | | | | | | |
| Aspen | 118 145 | Good | Open | Powder | Sun | 0 15/2 |
| Deer Valley | 220 280 | Good | Open | Powder | Snow | -5 11/2 |

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GOLF

James able to master conditions

FROM JON GREEN IN DOHA, QATAR

THE remarkable return to form of Mark James continued with a 67, five under par, at the Qatar Masters here yesterday. However, it was not enough to top the leader board on a blustery first day of the European PGA Tour event. James is tied for third place with Bob May, of the United States, with the lead being shared by Marc Farrow, of France, and Raymond Russell, of Scotland, who are both on six under par.

An eagle at the par-five 10th capped a performance that astounded nobody more than the Ryder Cup captain himself. His golf was wonderfully accurate despite the stiff breeze and he missed only one green and one fairway all morning. "I'm suspicious of this form. It's just too easy at the moment," James said. "Obviously, it's going to disappear soon, but at the moment I'm playing really solidly."

James has said that he has no intention of playing in the

believes that the illness and poor play that he suffered in 1998 are now behind him. The Nottingham-based Scot, 26, developed hepatitis at the Johnnie Walker Classic in Thailand last year, which caused him to miss eight tournaments and the cut in 18 others.

"Possibly my illness took more out of me than I realised, but I feel I'm completely healthy now," he said. The highlight of Russell's morning was an eagle on the 16th, when he chipped in from 20 yards. The shot of the day, however, came from Eduardo Romero, The Argentinian, who is well placed at three under par, hit a hole in one on the par-three 17th to win a BMW car.

Ian Woosnam, Ross McFarlane, John Bickerton and Paul Lawrie, who are level on four under par, completed a strong showing by British golfers, while Andrew Coltart, the defending champion, retrieved a disappointing round with three successive birdies to finish on one under. "It was a good finish," the Scot said. "Because of the wind at my back, I knew I had a chance to birdie the last three, so I took it."

Scores.....49

Ryder Cup in September, citing the pressure of captaining the Europe team as being enough for one man to handle. He rested during the winter after tearing a muscle in his shoulder and did not pick up a club again until just before the Dubai Desert Classic last week.

James said that the timing of the injury was fortunate and that his game is now as good as ever. "If something like that had happened during the season, it would have been an absolute nightmare because you almost always try to come back too soon," he said. "I haven't had much practice, but the swing just seems to have clicked into place and I'm putting reasonably well. Maybe as the pressure increases during the year, it might be more difficult, though."

Russell had spent a month practising in Australia and he

Wallace planning water torture for Wales



Mark Souster on the Ireland prop who found solace on the Solent after defeat by France

At the end of last week, Paul Wallace and Richard Wallace, his older brother, went sailing in the Solent. Any sooner and Paul — the rock of Ireland upon whom many an opposing prop has foundered — might have been tempted to throw himself overboard, such was the sense of desolation at events the previous weekend at Lansdowne Road. Given the pre-match hype and the manner in which the Irish had been left high and dry by the narrow defeat against France was the worst that either brother had experienced.

Watching, as in Richard's case, had been bad enough for Paul, the hurt was magnified by a factor of ten. "The most depressing result ever. I have never seen a changing-room so quiet and with so many grown men crying," he said. "We did enough to win the game. The way we lost was very disheartening. There was a lot of confidence in the side and still is. Keith Wood said that if it had been the last game of the championship, instead of the first, he would have gone quietly to the sanatorium. I know how he felt. It was that bad."

The Wallace brothers and boats might not seem to be natural bedfellows, but Paul and Richard, who share a house in North London close to the Saracens training ground, are accomplished yachtsmen — Richard good enough to represent Ireland at the European champion-



Wallace is determined to make up for the agonising defeat against France by helping Ireland to beat Wales at Wembley

ships in 1991, finishing sixth in the Laser class. Sibling rivalry being what it is, Paul asserts that he had to give up earlier because he showed greater prowess as a rugby player. They learnt their craft from their father, Michael.

Wallace Sr having coached and managed the Ireland team at the Los Angeles and Seoul Olympic Games.

Sailing to Cowes provided a therapy of sorts, as the match against Wales at Wembley on Saturday could well

do for Ireland. It is one of the quirks of the Five Nations Championship that Ireland have not lost to Wales away since 1983. Wembley might be a new experience for Ireland, but Paul Wallace believes that the sequence can be con-

"I have never seen a changing-room with so many grown men crying"

of games in the Five Nations in recent years. We have to look at every game as a championship in itself. The triple crown is not beyond us, but that's a long way down the road. If we play to our full potential, we can beat anyone," he said.

The irony is that the first five games I played for Ireland, we won all of them. But there are guys who have played ten times and never won. It is frustrating and, after a setback like France, it might have been very difficult to get morale up. But the management — Warren Gatland and Donal Lenihan — have been superb in that regard. There is a great team spirit."

Since making his debut in 1995 against Japan in the World Cup, Wallace, 27, has won 23 caps and scored three tries. When not proving himself to be the best tight-head prop in the northern hemisphere, his needs are few. As long as he can sleep, watch *The Simpsons* and master the PlayStation computer rugby game, he is a contented man. Put him in the green of Ireland and he takes on the persona of the Incredible Hulk, 6ft 11in and 175st of determination. Wales will feel the backwash of the France game; the Scotland forwards exposed their pack and Ireland could inflict even greater damage. So Ireland forwards versus Wales backs? "In recent times perhaps, but the Welsh pack has been strengthened and our back line has improved immensely. But yes, we will be looking to take them on up front," Wallace said.

"As nations, we have both underachieved. We've battled for the wooden spoon in recent years, but both teams expect to do better this season." The result this Saturday will dictate who can look to the future with greater confidence and whether Wallace will have, once again, to take to the water.

Woods seeks to make up for lost time

NIALL WOODS, who has enjoyed a successful season with London Irish in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, has forced his way back into the Ireland side after a three-year absence. Woods will play on the left wing against Wales at Wembley on Saturday, the second weekend of the Five Nations Championship, after the withdrawal of

Successive generations of Ireland selectors have found reason to doubt Woods's defensive qualities since the last of his seven caps, against England in 1996, and earlier this season he had a mediocre performance for Ireland A against South Africa. Yet his club form has seldom wavered, either as a goalkicker, attacking wing or even as a defender.

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

"I think I'm playing the best I have ever played this season," Woods, 27, said after being called up yesterday. "There has been a lot of hard work involved but I'm delighted to be back and I'm sure I can fit in well." He will be helped by the presence of Conor O'Shea, at full back, and Justin Bishop, on the right wing, his club colleagues.

However, the goalkicking duties will remain with David Humphreys, the fly half, who missed a difficult penalty goal that would have won the match earlier this month with France. Darragh O'Mahony, the Bedford wing, steps into the vacancy for the Ireland A side that plays Wales at Ebbw Vale tomorrow.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When the last board of the 1998 Gold Cup semi-final between Cohen and Price was placed on the table, Cohen's team was 8 IMPs behind. This was the hand:

| Dealer North | | N-S game | | IMPs | |
|--------------|-----|----------|-----|--------|--|
| | | ♠ A9 | | ♠ 5 | |
| | | ♥ J876 | | ♥ K532 | |
| | | ♦ KQ1043 | | ♦ 8752 | |
| | | ♣ K10 | | ♣ Q952 | |
| ♠ K1072 | ♠ N | ♥ A | ♥ S | | |
| ♥ 109 | ♥ E | ♦ A | ♦ S | | |
| ♦ J864 | ♦ S | ♣ QJ8643 | ♣ S | | |
| ♣ J864 | ♣ W | ♠ A94 | ♠ S | | |
| | | ♠ A73 | ♠ S | | |

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: ten of hearts.

This was the auction where the best pair in the match, Gunnar Hallberg and Colin Simpson, were North-South respectively for Price's team. Simpson's Two Clubs over Hallberg's One No-Trump was an enquiry bid, and Two Hearts showed four hearts, and denied three-card spade support. When Hallberg later raised spades it seemed certain he would have ace or king doubleton, so Simpson reasonably took a shot at the small slam.

On a non-heart lead Six Spades is close to even money — if declarer decides to play on trumps immediately, he needs the spades to come in for one loser and then either the diamonds to be good for four tricks or the heart finesse to be right. On a heart lead the slam is

WORD-WATCHING

- By Philip Howard
- PASTUOSITY**
a. Greed
b. Pride
c. Mendacity
- GEMARA**
a. An Etruscan goddess
b. An eared pot
c. A sacred text
- PARSE**
a. Folly
b. Fat
c. To interpolate
- GAVAL**
a. A crocodile
b. A dialect of Urdu
c. A gambling game
- Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-five years ago when Bobby Fischer became world champion in 1972 by defeating Boris Spassky, there were already those who feared that he might withdraw from chess and fail to defend his title. In 1974, the rising Soviet star Anatoly Karpov established himself as the leading contender to the world championship and indeed, the following year Fischer lost the title by default.

Today I celebrate Karpov's achievement by giving two wins from his match against Korchnoi, which established the young Russian as the legitimate contender, and automatically made him world champion when Fischer bowed out.

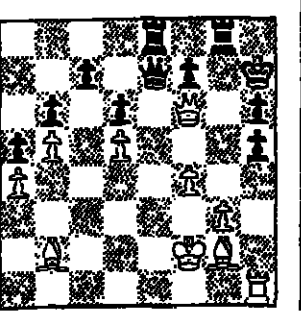
White: Anatoly Karpov Black: Viktor Korchnoi Moscow 1974

| Sicilian Defence | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1 e4 | c5 |
| 2 Nf3 | d5 |
| 3 d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5 Nc3 | g5 |
| 6 Bc3 | g6 |
| 7 f3 | Ng6 |
| 8 Qd2 | O-O |
| 9 Bc4 | Bd7 |
| 10 h4 | Re8 |
| 11 Bb3 | Ne5 |
| 12 O-O-O | Nc4 |
| 13 Bc4 | Rc4 |
| 14 h5 | Nd5 |
| 15 g4 | Nf6 |
| 16 Nde2 | Qa5 |
| 17 Bb6 | Bb6 |
| 18 Qd6 | Rd4 |
| 19 Rb3 | Ra4 |
| 20 g5 | Rd5 |
| 21 Rd5 | Re6 |
| 22 Nd5 | Re8 |
| 23 Ne4 | Re6 |
| 24 e5 | Bd5 |
| 25 e6 | Re6 |
| 26 Qd7+ | Kf8 |
| 27 Qd8+ | Black resigns |

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Adu — Louini, Cairo 1998. How did Black exploit the superior activity of his forces in this style?



Solution on page 50

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

NatWest

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HOW TO ENTER

Choose six drivers and six constructors, three from each of the four groups, left. Readers in the UK can enter by calling the 24-hour hotline on 0640 67 88 88 (Irish Republic +44 870 901 4206). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-Tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grand prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name (max 16 characters), together with your details. You will receive a 10-digit PIN as confirmation of your entry. You can enter a team any time until noon on Thursday, March 4, 1999 to qualify for the start of the Australian GP.

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

| GROUP A DRIVERS | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 Mika Hakkinen | 05 Alessandro Zanardi | 09 Giancarlo Fisichella |
| 02 Michael Schumacher | 06 Jacques Villeneuve | 10 Jean Alesi |
| 03 Damon Hill | 07 Eddie Irvine | 11 Johnny Herbert |
| 04 David Coulthard | 08 Olivier Panis | |

| GROUP B DRIVERS | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 12 Ralf Schumacher | 16 Ricardo Zonta | 20 Pedro Diniz |
| 13 Heinz-Harald Frentzen | 17 Marc Gené | 21 Pedro de la Rosa |
| 14 Alexander Wurz | 18 Jarno Trulli | 22 Norberto Fontana |
| 15 Mika Salo | 19 Rubens Barrichello | |

| GROUP C CONSTRUCTORS | | GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS | |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|
| 23 McLaren | 26 Jordan | 29 Arrows | 32 Prost |
| 24 Ferrari | 27 Benetton | 30 BAR | 33 Minardi |
| 25 Williams | 28 Sauber | 31 Stewart | |

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THE TIMES

BY JOHN GOODBODY

The top three finishers in the FA Carling Premiership this season will take part in the European Cup, the top two gaining automatic entry to the Champions' League group games, which start in September. The third-placed club and the Scottish champions will have to go through a qualifying competition.

I hope that the ride that Keegan will give to England will be just as much an adventure, a thrill, a hold-on-to-your-seats cavalier run that he gave to Newcastle United when he poured his restless energy into that once-lapsed club. The truth may be that there is not, for a man such as Keegan, real value in employing him.



Abroad, the concept of a part-time national coach scares nobody. Germany would not dream of it, but the Germany coach is expected to plot with interminable thoroughness, to think every waking day of the op-

Keegan, given half the chance, is a perfect catalyst to this. As a player, he ran almost beyond human capacity and elevated himself certainly beyond the sum of his talents. As a manager, at Newcastle for sure, he chose players to whom he could transmit this desire. And when the football critics said he was exposed, when he gave his emotional outburst after feeling cheated by Alex Fergu-

Overseas, there are two national team coaches who have attempted what Keegan seeks to do, holding the reins of a club and country in either hand. Vanderley Luxemburgo became the Brazil manager after the

To each his own, but to Kevin Keegan, part time or full time, an adventure for England.

■ **MOTOR RALLYING:** Two days after finishing third in the Swedish Rally on his debut for Ford, Thomas Radstrom's career is in doubt after he fell downstairs at a Nairobi hotel and broke his left leg in two places. Radstrom, who is team-mate to Colin McRae, the British driver, will be flown to Sweden today, where he will be examined by doctors to assess the severity of the injury.

■ **LIVERPOOL** yesterday signed Djimi Traore from Laval, the French second division club. Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, worked with the 18-year-old defender when he was technical director of the French Football Association. Liverpool have paid an initial fee of £550,000 for the 6ft 3in Traore, who is rated one of the brightest prospects in France.

■ **MARK BOSNICH**, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, is aiming to return from injury against Coventry City on February 27. He suffered the injury five months ago when he dislocated his shoulder against the same team at Highfield Road. Bosnich is stepping up the rehabilitation programme on the shoulder on which he had an operation in December and, within the next week, he will attempt to dive on it for the first time. John Gregory, the Villa manager, is waiting to see whether Ugo Ehiogu, his central defender, will need surgery to repair the fractured eye socket that he suffered in a clash with Alan Shearer, of Newcastle.

■ **GEORGE BURLEY**, the Ipswich Town manager, is giving a trial to Paul Holsgrove, the Hibernian midfielder player, as he attempts to breathe life into his side's automatic promotion challenge. Holsgrove joins Jim Magilton and Marlon Harewood, both signed on loan, as Burley believes experience could be the key to reaching the FA Carling Premiership.

■ **RON NOADES**, the Brentford manager, is poised to sign Scott Partridge, Torquay United's leading scorer, for £100,000. Noades has agreed a fee with Wes Saunders, the Torquay manager, and is to discuss terms with the player.

| | |
|---|------------|
| G. Kirsten not out | 0 |
| L. Klusener c Tweedie b Aliotti .. | 7 |
| J. Cullinan c Parrone b Aliotti .. | 57 |
| D. H. Kallis bow b Larsen | 7 |
| W. J. Crome not out | 74 |
| Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 3, nb 1) .. | 9 |
| Total (3 wickets, 43 overs) | 228 |
| N. Pienaar, S. M. Pollock, I. M. V. Boucher, N. B. de, P. L. Symcox and A. A. Donald did not bat | |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-12, 3-115. | |
| BOWLING: Dool 4-1-24-0; Aliotti 10-1-42-0; Nash 5-0-25-0; Verdon 5-0-40-0; Harris 6-0-23-0; Larsen 7-1-32-1; Asse 3-0-12-0; Maklisen 3-0-20-0. | |
| Umpires: C. E. King and E. A. Weather. | |

stock: **Carnegie's J. Scott**
 rock: **1** **Constitution**
 Cove: **1** **Constitution**
 1st: **Herndon**
 2nd: **Haywards**
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HOCKEY

CLUB MATCH (at Milton Keynes): Cardiff University 5 Army 3.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Phoenix Philadelphia 4.

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: South Wales Police 37 Morriston 29.

SWIMMING

MALING: World Cup: Eighth round (50m course) Winners: Men: Froeseby: 50m: 1:16.86; 100m: 3:36.96; 200m: 7:50.96; 400m: 16:56.96; 800m: 35:56.96; 1,600m: 1:10:56.96; 3,200m: 2:21:56.96; 6,400m: 4:43:37; Backstroke: 50m: 1:26.96; 100m: 3:06.96; 200m: 6:56.96; 400m: 15:06.96; 800m: 32:06.96; 1,600m: 1:06:06.96; 3,200m: 2:16:06.96; 6,400m: 4:36:06.96; 12,800m: 9:06:06.96; 25,600m: 18:06:06.96; 51,200m: 36:06:06.96; 102,400m: 72:06:06.96; 204,800m: 144:06:06.96; 409,600m: 288:06:06.96; 819,200m: 576:06:06.96; 1,638,400m: 1,152:06:06.96; 3,276,800m: 2,304:06:06.96; 6,553,600m: 4,608:06:06.96; 13,107,200m: 9,216:06:06.96; 26,214,400m: 18,432:06:06.96; 52,428,800m: 36,864:06:06.96; 104,857,600m: 73,728:06:06.96; 209,715,200m: 147,456:06:06.96; 419,430,400m: 294,912:06:06.96; 838,860,800m: 589,824:06:06.96; 1,677,721,600m: 1,179,648:06:06.96; 3,355,443,200m: 2,359,296:06:06.96; 6,710,886,400m: 4,718,592:06:06.96; 13,421,772,800m: 9,437,184:06:06.96; 26,843,545,600m: 18,874,368:06:06.96; 53,687,091,200m: 37,748,736:06:06.96; 107,374,182,400m: 75,497,472:06:06.96; 214,748,364,800m: 150,994,944:06:06.96; 429,496,729,600m: 301,989,888:06:06.96; 858,993,459,200m: 603,979,776:06:06.96; 1,717,986,918,400m: 1,207,959,552:06:06.96; 3,435,973,836,800m: 2,415,919,104:06:06.96; 6,871,947,673,600m: 4,831,838,208:06:06.96; 13,743,895,347,200m: 9,663,676,416:06:06.96; 27,487,790,694,400m: 19,327,352,832:06:06.96; 54,975,581,388,800m: 38,654,705,664:06:06.96; 109,951,162,777,600m: 77,309,411,328:06:06.96; 219,902,325,555,200m: 154,618,822,656:06:06.96; 439,804,651,110,400m: 309,237,645,312:06:06.96; 879,609,302,220,800m: 618,475,290,624:06:06.96; 1,759,218,604,441,600m: 1,236,950,581,248:06:06.96; 3,518,437,208,883,200m: 2,473,901,162,496:06:06.96; 7,036,874,417,766,400m: 4,947,802,324,992:06:06.96; 14,073,748,835,532,800m: 9,895,604,649,984:06:06.96; 28,147,497,671,065,600m: 19,791,209,299,968:06:06.96; 56,294,995,342,131,200m: 39,582,418,599,936:06:06.96; 112,589,990,684,262,400m: 79,164,837,199,872:06:06.96; 225,179,981,368,524,800m: 158,329,674,399,744:06:06.96; 450,359,962,737,049,600m: 316,659,348,799,488:06:06.96; 900,719,925,474,099,200m: 633,318,697,598,976:06:06.96; 1,801,439,850,948,198,400m: 1,266,637,395,197,952:06:06.96; 3,602,879,701,896,396,800m: 2,533,274,790,395,904:06:06.96; 7,205,759,403,792,793,600m: 5,066,549,580,791,808:06:06.96; 14,411,518,807,585,587,200m: 10,133,099,161,583,616:06:06.96; 28,823,037,615,171,174,400m: 20,266,198,323,167,232:06:06.96; 57,646,075,230,342,348,800m: 40,532,396,646,334,464:06:06.96; 115,292,150,460,684,697,600m: 81,064,793,292,668,928:06:06.96; 230,584,300,921,369,395,200m: 162,129,586,585,337,856:06:06.96; 461,168,601,842,738,790,400m: 324,259,173,170,675,712:06:06.96; 922,337,203,685,477,580,800m: 648,518,346,341,351,424:06:06.96; 1,844,674,407,370,955,161,600m: 1,297,036,692,682,702,848:06:06.96; 3,689,348,814,741,910,323,200m: 2,594,073,385,365,405,696:06:06.96; 7,378,697,629,483,820,646,400m: 5,188,146,770,730,811,392:06:06.96; 14,757,395,258,967,641,292,800m: 10,376,293,541,461,622,784:06:06.96; 29,514,790,517,935,282,585,600m: 20,752,587,082,923,245,568:06:06.96; 59,029,581,035,870,565,171,200m: 41,505,174,165,846,491,136:06:06.96; 118,059,162,071,741,130,342,400m: 83,010,348,331,692,982,272:06:06.96; 236,118,324,143,482,260,684,800m: 166,020,696,663,385,964,544:06:06.96; 472,236,648,286,964,521,369,600m: 332,041,393,326,771,929,088:06:06.96; 944,473,296,573,929,042,739,200m: 664,082,786,653,543,858,176:06:06.96; 1,888,946,593,147,858,085,478,400m: 1,328,165,573,307,087,716,352:06:06.96; 3,777,893,186,295,716,170,956,800m: 2,656,331,146,614,175,432,704:06:06.96; 7,555,786,372,591,432,341,913,600m: 5,312,662,293,228,350,865,408:06:06.96; 15,111,572,745,182,864,683,827,200m: 10,625,324,586,456,701,730,816:06:06.96; 30,223,145,490,365,729,367,654,400m: 21,250,649,172,913,403,461,632:06:06.96; 60,446,290,980,731,458,735,308,800m: 42,501,298,345,826,806,923,264:06:06.96; 120,892,581,961,463,917,470,617,600m: 85,002,596,691,653,613,846,528:06:06.96; 241,785,163,922,927,834,941,235,200m: 170,005,193,383,307,227,693,056:06:06

MALMCO: World Cup: Eighth round (5th course) **Winners: Men: Freestyle: 100m:** Borge (Ger) 22.16sec. **200m:** T. Pearson (Aus) 17m 47.50sec. **1,500m:** J. Hordich (Ger) 14.4337. **Backstroke: 100m:** Theophile (Ger) 25.06. **200m:** Theophile (Ger) 54.99. **500m:** Theophile (Ger) 2:05.07. **1,500m:** Theophile (Ger) 8:10.12. **Butterfly: 100m:** J. Hordich (Ger) 1:00.12. **200m:** J. Hordich (Ger) 52.29. **Medley: 200m:** J. Stevenson (Aus) 1:56.32. **British placing: 2:** Hordich (Ger) 52.29. **Men's Freestyle: 100m:** Messinger (Ger) 54.59. **400m:** Chen Hua (Chi) 4:04.78. **British placing: 3:** C. Simons (Ger) 54.59. **500m:** C. Simons (Ger) 2:05.37. **Backstroke: 100m:** L. Ormerod (GB) 1:01.04. **200m:** Ormerod (GB) 2:11.04. **500m:** S. Pavey (Aus) 3:14.34. **2000m:** 1. Pavey 2:24.40. **British placing: 1:** Pavey 2:24.40. **Butterfly: 100m:** J. Stepan (Sov) 25.69. **200m:** J. Stepan (Sov) 54.99. **500m:** J. Stepan (Sov) 2:05.37. **World record:** C. Neill (Aus) 2:05.37. **British placing: 1:** C. Neill (Aus) 2:05.37. **Men's Freestyle: 100m:** Messinger (Ger) 54.59. **200m:** Messinger (Ger) 1:56.32. **British placing: 2:** Hordich (Ger) 52.29. **Men's Freestyle: 100m:** Messinger (Ger) 54.59. **400m:** Chen Hua (Chi) 4:04.78. **British placing: 3:** C. Simons (Ger) 54.59. **500m:** C. Simons (Ger) 2:05.37. **Backstroke: 100m:** L. Ormerod (GB) 1:01.04. **200m:** Ormerod (GB) 2:11.04. **500m:** S. Pavey (Aus) 3:14.34. **2000m:** 1. Pavey 2:24.40. **British placing: 1:** Pavey 2:24.40. **Butterfly: 100m:** J. Stepan (Sov) 25.69. **200m:** J. Stepan (Sov) 54.99. **500m:** J. Stepan (Sov) 2:05.37. **World record:** C. Neill (Aus) 2:05.37. **British placing: 1:** C. Neill (Aus) 2:05.37.

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Isabelle Autissier, who was rescued in the Southern Ocean on Tuesday, was yesterday still trying to work out why her boat, *PRB*, capsized in only 20 knots of wind and stayed upside down, forcing her to send a May Day signal and putting her out of the Around Alone Race.

Not long after the rescue by Giovanni Soldini, who resumed his easterly heading towards Cape Horn on *Fila*, Autissier explained the sequence of events that led to the loss of the Groupe Finot-designed Open 60, in which she had already completed one circumnavigation.

Eric Coquerel, her spokesman, said that the boat had initially been knocked down to 90 degrees (with its mast

How Autissier's world turned upside down

Edward Gorman relates the events behind a dramatic ocean rescue

lying on the surface of the water) after an autopilot fault slewed *PRB* off course. As she scrambled to retrieve what is a fairly common "crash" in Open 60 sailing, she was shocked when the boat turned right over and stayed there, even though the swing keel was still in place.

"What is surprising, and what Isabelle does not understand, was that the boat rapidly overturned to a full inverted position. Isabelle had just enough time to take

refuge inside and send out a distress signal," Coquerel added.

Soldini, who had sailed 200 miles in 24 hours to reach Autissier, said initially that he could not find her at the co-ordinates given to him

by race officials monitoring her automatic distress signal. However, after sailing about two miles northwest, he spotted the upturned hull. Autissier was asleep when Soldini arrived, having guessed that he would not reach her for several more hours.

As he made two passes close to the boat, Soldini yelled out Autissier's name, but there was no response. On the third pass, he threw a hammer that clattered along the carbon-fibre hull. Autissier then emerged from an escape hatch in the transom and Soldini picked her up.

Yesterday, *Fila* was 358 miles astern of the only other yacht left in the Class 1 race, Marc Thiercelin's *Some-where*, which is the new overall leader. Thiercelin has his own problems, though, having broken the gooseneck fitting (where the boom attaches to the base of the mast) in an incident during which his boat almost somersaulted as it sped down wind.

"It was impossible for me to turn back for Isabelle against the prevailing winds with a broken boom," he said. "When I turned back to look for Gerry Rous in the Vendée Globe race, against the prevailing winds, I broke the bow of my boat."

TENNIS: FOURTEEN ACES HELP REVITALISED BRITON TO SEE OFF KIEFER'S CHALLENGE

Rusedski plays trump card

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN ROTTERDAM

THESE are trying times for Greg Rusedski as he searches for a semblance of his best. That remained elusive at the indoor tournament here yesterday, although the Briton cleared a difficult first-round hurdle when he vaulted over the ambition of Nicolas Kiefer.

Confidence is Rusedski's fuel and he was frank in acknowledging the fact after inching past Kiefer 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 in a fraction over two hours. His victory was the first in the four matches this year that he has been taken to a deciding set, hence the glow of satisfaction after what was, by any reckoning, a scrappy match.

What helped to colour Rusedski's cheeks was a 211kph ace, his fastest of the year yet still some 20kph below his optimum indoors. It signalled that he is gradually unravelling the chains that have been restricting his heaviest piece of artillery.

"I have been returning well, but serving is my key weapon," Rusedski said, "and it has not been working too well. When it does, the rest of my game seems to follow. I felt that that was the best I have served this year."

Although Rusedski, seeded No 5, hammered down 14 aces, Kiefer all but matched him, serving one fewer. The German, a finalist in Dubai last week, won 35 of his 40 first-service points. "I could barely get a racket on to them early in the match," Rusedski said after only his third victory of the fledgling season.

In the end, Kiefer betrayed himself with a low first-service ratio of 45 per cent. Rusedski recorded a pleasing 60 per cent, well above his seasonal average to date and without which Kiefer, world-ranked No 35, would undoubtedly have won this match. Instead, he became Rusedski's highest-ranked victim of 1999.

That the contest required a deciding set was entirely due to Rusedski, who had outmanoeuvred his opponent to create an open court, fluffing an easy backhand kill at break point and 5-5 in the opening set. To his credit, Rusedski dug in through the subsequent tie-break, which Kiefer gifted him courtesy of a mis-hit backhand at set point.

This error-strewn theme embraced the entire contest, in



Rusedski serves notice against Kiefer yesterday that he is getting back to his best

which mistakes far outnumbered winners. Rusedski gave vent to his fragile mental state, slamming a ball into the back netting on dropping his service at the start of the second set and again when double-fault-

ing 15 minutes later after his first service was negated by a foot fault. He was fortunate to escape censure as Kiefer duly levelled the match.

However, Rusedski struck first in the deciding set, this

time after a brace of double faults caused Kiefer to surrender his opening service game tamely. Rusedski narrowly avoided a similar fate before holding for 3-0.

Rusedski revealed just how

important a victory it was after his second-round humbling by Francisco Claver in Dubai last week. "That was the first time I have ever lost a match from being a set and two breaks up," he said, "and that includes my days as a junior. It was good to be able to forget all about that."

Indeed, the Great Britain No 2 will be expecting to make further progress today, when he tackles Edwin Kempes, a local wild-card entrant and world-ranked No 174, in the second round. Tim Henman was due to play Petr Korda late last night for a quarter-final place.

Kiefer's fine run in Dubai was halted by Jerome Golmard, of France, who opened his campaign here with a resounding 6-0, 6-4 dismissal of

Steff Graf, the former world No 1, delighted her supporters when she beat Anne-Gaëlle Sidot, of France, 6-1, 6-3 to reach the third round of the Faber Grand Prix in Hanover. Her next opponent is Barbara Schett, of Austria, who beat Virginia Ruano-Pascal, of Spain, 7-5, 6-2.

Felix Mantilla, Golmard toyed with his Spanish opponent, his deceptively heavy forehand routinely penetrating Mantilla's porous defences. Golmard, 25, defeated consecutive top-ten opponents in Karol Kucera, Henman and then Carlos Moya en route to landing his first title in Dubai. He is now scheming further mischief in a top half of the draw already shorn of Alex Corretja, the No 1 seed, and Thomas Enqvist, the No 7 seed. Both were first-round losers. Enqvist to Wayne Ferreira, who opposes Golmard today.

Making equally ominous noises is the hard-hitting Roger Federer, of Switzerland. The Wimbledon junior champion last year, Federer qualified for this tournament and promptly added to those gains yesterday when accounting for Bohdan Ulihrach 6-4, 7-5. Rusedski, for one, is aware of Federer's potential. "I haven't seen a 17-year-old with his ability in a long time."

LINKS
WWW: www.atp.com
TELEVISION: Eurosport, 2.00pm, 5.30pm (live)

SQUASH

Johnson slips up at Halifax

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

ELLIS Stockbrokers Lingfield fielded their second team at Halifax in the National Super League this week. With Paul Johnson, the national champion, at first string, they defeated Halifax Insurance 2-1 at Queen's Sports Club and moved seven points ahead at the top of the table.

Surprisingly, Johnson, 26, the left-hander who took his first British title earlier this month in Manchester, lost 7-9, 9-7, 9-5, 4-9, 10-8, to the fast-improving Marcus Berrett. However, Lingfield rescued the tie through fighting five-game victories from Tony Hands and

Tim Garner. When the going gets tougher soon, the Surrey squad will doubtless reinforce their ranks with Peter Nicol, the world No 1, and Rodney Eyles, a former world champion, just as they did when clinching the league and cup double last season.

Dunraven Windows Macgregor took Welsh honours with a 3-0 win over Le Sport Colwyn Bay that put them in second place on 22 points. Colwyn Bay was a late entrant after the club was purchased last year by Phil Whitlock, a

former British and over-35 champion. Whitlock's Manchester connection is apparent in the Colwyn Bay line-up, Nick Taylor, the first string, and Paul Lord, at second string, are the leading players from Lancashire and Cheshire, respectively.

They could do little, however, against the Maesteg line-up of Alex Gough, the Welsh No 1, David Evans, the Welsh champion, and Mark Cairns, a former British champion, although Whitlock denied his advancing years by extending Cairns to 7-9 in the fifth game of their third-string encounter.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Heartbeat by the sea

Harbour Lights
BBC1, 8.00pm

The latest starring vehicle for the personable Nick Berry is another cosygoing drama in the *Heartbeat* mould, or at least that is the conclusion from the opening episode which features the improbable tale of a bigamist who tries to fake his death. None of which has much to do with Berry's role as Mike Nicholls, the harbourmaster of a South Coast town. *Harbour Lights* begins by recalling Nicholls's previous career as a naval commander, during which his best friend drowned. But the funeral, and the suggestion that Nicholls was partly to blame, are a misleadingly sombre introduction to a show that far from trying to disturb, is firmly on the benign side. Collectors of trivia will want to know that the location for the series, West Bay in Dorset, provides the same beach from which Reginald Perrin staged his bogus suicide.

Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age
BBC2, 8.00pm

The Bolton steeplejack who became a television celebrity in the 1970s blowing up chimneys hosts a series in which he pays affectionate homage to Britain's industrial past. Donning overalls and flat cap he tours heritage museums and the like and drools over old steam engines and water mills which have been saved from the scrapyard and lovingly restored to their original state. Although this is an unpretentious introduction to industrial archaeology, delivered by an enthusiast who would not pretend to be anything else, the series does deliver an important history lesson. Britain may have been the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution but within 200 years steam had been superseded and many of the mines, mills and factories had closed. Hence the need to preserve what is left.

The Murder of Stephen Lawrence
ITV, 9.00pm

There have been any number of documentaries about the Lawrence case and now comes the fiction, that grey area between fact and fiction that uses a script and actors but purports to present only what really happened. As drama, there is little to fault the production, which was written and



Nick Berry stars in the new drama series *Harbour Lights* (BBC1, 8pm)

directed by Paul Greengrass. The casting, headed by Hugh Quarshie and Marianne Jean-Baptiste as the Lawrence parents, is faultless and the performance exudes conviction. Fluid camerawork injects pace and realism. In its account of the tragedy and its controversial aftermath the film is unsentimental and tries to be dispassionate. It presents what it sees as the facts and leaves us to judge. Greengrass, of course, was not there. But the integrity of his project is beyond doubt.

Playing the Field
BBC1, 9.30pm

Kay Mellor's robust northern drama returns for a deserved second series, picking up much where it left off. In recommending *Playing the Field* to newcomers it must be said that those who missed the original run will be confused at first. For Mellor sustains a large ensemble cast whose relationships intertwine in far from straightforward ways. There is a birth in tonight's episode, for instance, with two men thinking that they are the father. In line with Mellor's commitment to realism, it is one of the most convincing births portrayed in a television fiction, with a very pregnant actress, Lorraine Ashbourne, playing the mother. *Playing the Field* continues to be based around a women's football team, but even more than before the football is secondary to what takes place off the pitch.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Waistland
Radio 4, 2.15pm

This play by Tanika Gupta about members of the eponymous club for slimmers has a strong documentary feel, especially in the powerful confessional element at meetings. The central character is Vanessa (Lisa Jacobs), who runs the club and, at first, gives the impression that her life is as under control as her body. The members of the club are utterly convincing and include Jane: "I've tried everything, the Farnham C-P Plan, the Cambridge diet, I even tried a Mars Bar diet once and erupted in spots." It transpires that beneath the calm and controlled exterior shown to her clients, Vanessa is full of hang-ups, panicky that her own weight might balloon and unclear what to do about her on-off relationship with Steve (Shaun Dingwall).

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Mark Goodier 12.00pm Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.00 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 6.00 Dave Pearce The Evening Session 10.00 Trade Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00am Andy Kershaw 2.00 Clive Wilson 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Richard Littlejohn 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 David Alan 8.00 Paul Jones 8.00 Paul and Dennis It's Been a Bad Week (2/5) 9.30 Comedy Showcases: Takeaway, See Choice (5/7) 10.00 Moby Tally Jazz 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Katrina Leskanich 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast with Julian Worricks and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News, Presented by Alan Robb 1.00 Ruocco and Co 4.00 Drive, Presented by Jane Garvey and Peter Allen 7.00 News at Five 7.20 On the News 7.30 News at Six 7.40 News at Six 7.50 Inside Edge 9.00 Hoops 9.30 SportsShop 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm My Favourite Year 12.00 Newsbeat 3.00 Peter Dinkley 5.00 The SportsZone 7.00 One to One with Andy Gray 8.00 The News 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 6.00 Harry Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Mark Forster 1.00am James Meritt 4.30 Richard Allen

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday 10.30 Artist of the Week: Raphael Wallfisch 11.00 Sound Stories: Edith Piaf - Thomas Mann 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Dvorak 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: A recital given by the Italian viol concert Labyrinto 2.00 The BBC Orchestra's Ulster Orchestra 4.00 Ensemble (1) 4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Pearson 5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty celebrates the 50th birthday of the clarinettist Alan Hacker 7.30 Performance on 3 Henze's chamber opera *Elegy*

for Young Lovers. With Quentin Hayes, baritone, Susannah Waters, soprano, Susan Buckley, mezzo, Roderick Kennedy, bass, Jon Garsmon, tenor, Louise Kennedy-Richardson, soprano, and Timothy Davies, actor. London Sinfonietta under Marcus Stanz 10.15 Postscript: Magnificat at the Millennium (5/5) (1) 10.45 Night Waves Paul Allen talks to the sculptor Richard Deacon about his new exhibition 11.30 Jazz Mobius Alyn Shipton is joined by Campbell Burrow to review the latest CDs 12.00am Composer of the Week: Telemann (1) 1.00 Through the Night

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today with Rachel Morgan 6.00 Today 6.00 Mervyn Briggs In Our Time 9.30 Q & A New series with Jaz Nelson 9.45 (FM) Serials: Planet of the Blind (4/5) 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Women's Hour with Jenni Murray 11.00 From Our Own Correspondent 11.30 Fast Chance Jenny McDade's comedy (2/5) 12.00pm (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.04 You and Yours Consumer 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Open Country with Richard Unidge 2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Waistland See Choice 3.00 Call You and Yours 0870 010 0444 3.30 Science in the Attic Bill Courtney (4/5) (1)

3.45 This Scattered Isle with Anna Massey 4.00 Law in Action with Marcel Berlins 4.30 The Material World with Trevor Phillips 5.00 PM with Clare English and Eddie Mair 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Yes, Minister (1) 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row with John Wilson 7.45 The Cry of the Bittern (1) 8.00 On Tap: A History of Drinking Water (1/3) 8.30 The Week in Westminster 9.00 Testbeds with Vanessa Collingridge 9.30 Melvyn Bragg: In Our Time (1) 10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain (4/10) 11.00 Late Night on 4: The Way It Is Sate 11.30 (FM) A Good Read (1) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 11.45 (LW) Parliamentary Postcards 12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: All Points North by Simon Armitage (1) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 903. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.5. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1063, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Waxing lyrical on a bunch of dummies

Celebrities can behave oddly about their fame. They are like sale shoppers who will camp outside Harrods to be the first through the doors to secure some bargain. But the minute they get the thing home they start wondering if they've been duped and whether it was worth all the effort in the first place.

Once the thrill is over, famous people hate being photographed, being pestered by autograph hunters and being laughed at in supermarkets when they buy economy loo rolls. The only way you can reignite their appetite for fame is by threatening to take it away again.

This is what makes a berth in Madame Tussaud's so attractive to a celebrity. Their fans can get their fill of them by seeing their waxwork double, with the added bonus — as far as we could tell from BBC's *Modern Times: Wax-Works of the Rich and Famous* —

of being able to molest parts of their anatomy. Particularly parts of Linford Christie's anatomy. This may explain why the celebrities we saw interviewed last night were thrilled that they were famous enough to have been chosen for inclusion.

"It's rather like being made a Dame," trilled Joanna Lumley, who, to be fair, is usually grateful about the blessings and burdens of her celebrity. "I remember going completely scarlet with excitement." Terry Venables thought it was a "great privilege." Jimmy Savile explained that "when you are asked to be effigied and waxed to such a place, you know that you are near the top of the ladder. And when you are taken out of Madame Tussaud's you know that you are several rungs lower down and that the trajectory is downwards, as against upwards."

Geoffrey Boycott, rather too obviously, liked the fact that they put

me next to Sophia Loren, so I thought that was very nice when the lights went out."

To their credit, Jimmy and Geoffrey are not so vain that they regularly join Madame Tussaud's three million visitors a year, just so that they can keep tabs on their doubles. We know this because they both seem to think that their bodies still figure among the 300 celebrities on display: in fact, they have both been axed, although the criteria for keeping some exhibits and melting down others seem a little random.

Barbara Cartland is still there, even though someone has stolen her dog and even though she herself is not in great shape. "She's gone a bit nicotine-coloured," said the woman attending to Dame Barbara's regular morning make-up. "So it's difficult to maintain her." Which sounded needlessly

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

insensitive until it became clear that she was referring to the dummy's 20-year-old wig and not Dame Barbara herself.

All that remains of Boycott and Savile are their severed heads. These are stacked on crowded shelves alongside dozens of other de-listed dummies, like the result of some savage celebrity cut-throat by a *Hell* reporter at the end of his tether. There was Terry

Wogan, Cilla Black, David Frost, Einstein, Mao, Olivier, Sophia Loren, JR, Liza Minnelli, Roy Hattersley — whose bodies probably provided just enough wax between them to make new models of Dolly Parton and Pavarotti.

This idea of fame being passed on like a baton was echoed in *Walk On the Wildside* (ITV), a lively attempt to draw a straight line through the history of transsexuals in rock 'n' roll from Little Richard to Dana International, the Israeli pop singer whose Eurovision Song Contest victory underlined just how mainstream all these pretty things have become.

"I really think there isn't anything that's shocking any more," said Marc Almond, wistfully remembering those days when *Top Of The Pops* audiences weren't sure whether to love him or lynch him. "It's very hard to be subversive now."

On this side of the Atlantic it all

seemed to start with Lindsay Kemp, the mime artist whom David Bowie acknowledges as an influence. "I always urged him to be extreme," said Kemp, recalling his first glimpse of Bowie in full glam-rock gear. "But not that extreme." Kemp also provided some costume inspiration for Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*, which used similar corsets to those Kemp had used in a Glasgow Citizens production of a Jean Genet play.

His documentary may have had ideas above its station, but it was perfectly enjoyable as a nostalgic trip: Boy George, Holly Johnson, Roxy Music, The Sweet, Freddie Mercury, Marc Bolan, Steve Strange, The Kinks singing *Lola* — a good excuse to replay some songs that you might not have heard in a while.

Sophie Grigson's *Herbs* (BBC2) is a new series with a pro-

prietorial-sounding title. But she's actually willing to share her enthusiasm for herbs (this week it was oregano, marjoram, basil and coriander) and her ideas for what to do with "these little kitchen gods".

Grigson has found a clever peg for a cookery series, since herbs have swollen into a £40 million-a-year industry in Britain. I'm with Sophie when it comes to chucking basil and coriander into dishes by the handful, which is why it's such a mystery that supermarkets sell coriander in those small, pricey packets which hold four slender sprigs, as if you might be planning to smoke them in a roll-up.

Grigson's guest chef was Antony Worrall Thompson, the chef who specialises in never turning down an opportunity to appear on telly. Every TV cook now has a guest cook dropping by. And when the guest cook gets a series, they reciprocate by returning the invitation. It's like TV dinner parties.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (50166)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (12673)
- 9.00am News (1) (103217)
- 9.45am The Vanessa Show (1) (422626)
- 10.05am News; Regional News (1) (6881760)
- 11.00am Change That (503437)
- 11.25am Not Cook, Won't Cook (1) (637826)
- 11.55am News; Regional News (1) (1551383)
- 12.00pm Call My Bluff (67234)
- 12.30pm Wipeout (2267465)
- 12.55pm The Weather Show (1) (4802417)
- 1.00pm One O'Clock News (1) (15760)
- 1.30pm Regional News (47748215)
- 1.40pm Neighbours (1) (25825470)
- 2.05pm Ironside (1) (3772031)
- 2.55pm Body Spies (5026321)
- 3.25pm Children's BBC: Playdays (594050)
- 3.45pm All New Popeye (2833234)
- 3.55pm Pocket Dragon Adventures (2839418)
- 4.05pm Anthony and the Hot Air Balloon (5948700)
- 4.20pm Home Farm (1) (4770225)
- 4.35pm Short Farm (1) (1211215)
- 5.00pm Newsround (2251383)
- 5.10pm Grange Hill (6803925)
- 5.30pm Rawlind (1) (187768)
- 5.55pm Neighbours (1) (1) (599234)
- 6.00pm Six O'Clock News; Weather (1) (925)
- 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (505)
- 7.00pm Watchdog with Anne Robinson (1) (5942)
- 7.30pm EastEnders (1) (789)
- 8.00pm Harbour Lights: Nick Berry stars in a feature film about his life in the major new drama series (1) (882654)
- 8.50pm Points of View (1) (740147)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (1) (6321)



Key Mellor's acclaimed drama returns (9.30pm)

- 9.30pm Playing the Field: New series of the football drama. Geraldine goes into premature labour (1) (264050)
- 10.20pm They Think It's All Over Again (1) (843234)
- 10.50pm Question Time with Tony Banks (1) (342673)
- 11.50pm The Parallax View (1974). Thriller, starring Warren Beatty as a journalist investigating a plot to eliminate the witnesses to a political assassination. Directed by Alan J. Pakula (1) (429006)
- 1.30am Watchdog (545819)
- 1.35pm BBC News 24 (4302187)
- 6.30pm-7.00pm Wales Today (1) (505)
- 10.20pm Damon Rochester: Tonight (476) (843234)
- 10.50pm Eurovision Song Contest 1998: The UK's entry, "I Wanna Be Close To You" (1) (729257)
- 11.50pm Question Time (1) (342673)
- 12.00am The Parallax View (1) (344083)
- 2.30pm News Headlines (1) (4119835)
- 2.35pm-6.00pm BBC News 24 (7873815)

BBC2

- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Open a Door (3077470) 7.05am Teletubbies (595012) 7.30am Snorks (3378465) 7.50am Blue Peter (5767455) 8.20am Taz-Mania (788780) 8.40am Dot Stars (5852708) 8.50am Fiddley Fiddle Bird (5841892) 9.00am Daytime on 9.10 (5858875) 9.00am Job Bank (588875) 9.10am Babel File (4672505) 9.30am Watch (176705) 9.45am Come Outside (175205) 10.00am Children's BBC: Teletubbies (87489) 10.30am Daytime on Two: Storytime (2759499) 10.45am Teaching Today (598573) 11.15am Zig Zag (4014550) 11.35pm Pathways of Belief (8451050) 11.50pm Job Bank (5858875) 12.00pm Job Bank (797005) 12.10pm English File (845128) 12.30pm Working Lunch (83760)
- 1.00pm Children's BBC: Fiddley Fiddle Bird (9407437)
- 1.10pm The Travel Hour (1) (8761499)
- 2.10pm Sporting Greats (8181708)
- 2.40pm News; Regional News (1) (3176586)
- 2.45pm Match of the Day (1) (2626128)
- 3.25pm News; Regional News (1) (4557186)
- 3.30pm Aweash with Colour (383)
- 4.00pm Kays (5020321)
- 4.25pm Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (6030708)
- 4.55pm Esther (1) (3374789)
- 5.30pm Today's the Day (1) (854)
- 6.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1) (495296)
- 6.45pm Quantum Leap (1) (806873)
- 7.30pm First Sight Report on racist attitudes in the Army (1) (401)



Fred Dineah indulges in his passion for history (8pm)

- 8.00pm Fred Dineah's Industrial Age: New series. Television's favourite steeplejack begins a tour of the country's most treasured sites of industrial history (1) (7692)
- 8.30pm Wheeler Dealers: New series. Teams of budding 'Aston' dealers captured by Marlene Galt and Austin Richards visit the steeplejack in the biggest profit from a £1,000 stake in just five days, beginning with ventures in the worlds of modern art and antiques. Presented by Adrian Chiles (1) (3499)
- 9.00pm Red Dwarf: New series of the long-running sci-fi comedy (1) (4963)
- 9.30pm Horizon: The race to perfect the artificial heart, the ideal solution to the current shortage of heart donors, a problem which may finally have been solved after 40 years of development (1) (28262)
- 10.20pm Tales of Toole: New series (1) (355789)
- 10.30pm Newswatch (1) (29176)
- 11.13pm Video Nation Shows (1) (136437)
- 11.15pm Late Review (401875)
- 12.00am The Phil Saveris Show (1) (8935451)
- 12.25pm Sliding Forecast (5402345)
- 12.30pm BBC Learning Zone

HTV

- 5.30am ITN Morning News (63126)
- 6.00am GMTV (506229)
- 9.25am Trisha (1) (287147)
- 10.30am This Morning (1) (11394654)
- 12.15pm HTV News and Weather (1) (793333)
- 12.30pm ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (1) (8758)
- 1.00pm Shortland Street: Rebecca faces rejection (17128)
- 1.30pm Home and Away: Are the Nash family dead? (1) (88857)
- 2.00pm The Jerry Springer Show: Outrageous anything goes talk show, tackling subjects as bizarre as even by American standards (1) (5605586)
- 2.45pm Dale's Supermarket Sweep (1) (561654)
- 3.15pm ITN News Headlines (1) (6357168)
- 3.30pm HTV News (1) (3002091)
- 3.25pm CTV: Cartoon Time (5941418) 3.45pm The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (3977741) 4.00pm Lavender Castle (8482557) 4.15pm Hey Arnold! (3152499) 4.40pm Children's Ward (2042418)
- 5.10pm A Country Practice: Ian impresses Darcy (943215)
- 5.30pm HTV Crimestoppers (171128)
- 5.40pm ITN Early Evening News; Weather (1) (104215)
- 6.00pm Home and Away: Are the Nash family dead? (1) (839654)
- 6.25pm HTV Weather (701418)
- 6.30pm The West Tonight (1) (673)
- 7.00pm Emmerdale: Lyn sets Marion his final test (1) (5470)
- 7.30pm We Can Work It Out (857)
- 8.00pm The Bill: Meadows rubs his hands in glee when an opportunity arises to put a notorious drug dealer behind bars — but the smile is wiped off his face by the discovery of £5,000 stashed under a desk in his own department (1) (8437)



No one has been convicted of the Stephen Lawrence murder (9pm)

- 9.00pm The Murder of Stephen Lawrence: Poignant dramatisation of Doran and Neville Lawrence's struggle to bring their 19-year-old son's killers to justice (1) (6673)
- 10.00pm News at Ten; Weather (1) (53031)
- 10.30pm HTV News and Weather (1) (358437)
- 10.40pm The Murder of Stephen Lawrence: Concluded (1) (309128)
- 11.40pm Thursday Night Live (452079)
- 12.40pm The Jerry Springer Show (1) (862364)
- 1.25pm T in the Park (8256390)
- 2.25pm Bob O'Connell: A (1988635)
- 3.00pm Cybernet (1) (194068)
- 3.20pm Murder, She Wrote (3818242)
- 4.10pm Pottery About Pottery (3926797)
- 4.35pm Coach (39245154)
- 5.00pm ITV Nightvision (12635)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except.
- 12.20pm-12.30pm Central News (8352215)
- 1.00pm Echo Point (17128)
- 1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (1456876)
- 2.15pm-2.45pm Home and Away (562383)
- 3.30pm-3.25pm Central News (3002091)
- 5.10pm-5.40pm Shortland Street (9043215)
- 6.25pm-6.55pm Central News (447673)
- 6.55pm-7.00pm Lifetime (563470)
- 10.30pm-10.40pm Central News (358437)
- 12.50pm The Jerry Springer Show (2632635)
- 1.30pm Highlander (2890131)
- 2.25pm Pop Down the Pub (1888635)
- 2.50pm Judge Judy (3389606)
- 3.10pm Cybernet (50061800)
- 3.35pm Pottery About Pottery (40061703)
- 4.05pm Central Jockin' (5905242)
- 4.30pm-4.50pm Asian Eye (726166)

- As HTV West except.
- 12.15pm-12.27pm Westcountry News (795333)
- 12.27pm-12.30pm Illuminations (8360234)
- 1.00pm Emmerdale (17128)
- 1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (1456876)
- 2.15pm-2.45pm Home and Away (562383)
- 3.30pm-3.25pm Westcountry News (3002091)
- 5.05pm Birthday People (5138741)
- 5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (9043215)
- 6.00pm-7.00pm Westcountry Live (85505)
- 10.30pm-10.40pm Westcountry News (358437)

- As HTV West except.
- 12.15pm-12.30pm Meridian News (795333)
- 5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (1) (9043215)
- 6.00pm The West Tonight (1) (321)
- 6.30pm-7.00pm Getaway (710) (673)
- 10.30pm-10.40pm Meridian News (1) (358437)
- 5.00am-5.30pm Freecore (1) (12635)

- As HTV West except.
- 12.15pm-12.30pm Anglia Air Watch (8364050)
- 12.30pm-12.35pm Anglia News and Weather (8362215)
- 5.10pm-5.40pm Home and Away (1) (9043215)
- 5.55pm Anglia Weather (1) (2894302)
- 12.30pm-12.35pm Anglia News (1) (358437)
- 1.00pm-1.05pm Anglia News (1) (358437)
- 1.30pm The Three Stooges (1) (2757673)
- 1.50pm The Firming Touch (1) (9120483)
- 3.30pm Collectors' Lot (1) (8186673)
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FA must resume search after No 1 choice accepts coach's role on temporary basis

Keegan leaves England in limbo

By Matt Dickinson

THE Football Association opened up the possibility of England being run by four coaches in as many months yesterday when it placed Kevin Keegan in the country's hottest seat, but only until June.

Lancaster Gate may have been taken over by modernisers, but it appears that it is not above an old-fashioned fudge. No sooner had David Davies announced that the former England captain would, as expected, succeed Glenn Hoddle from this morning, than he was forced to reveal that it would only be for the next four games. So, on the same day that Keegan takes over, the search for the man to replace him in the summer will also begin.

In defence of the FA's international committee — and it may need all the supporters it can get in the turbulent months ahead — it appeared that it had little choice but to make the interim appointment because of Keegan's staunch refusal to break his contract with Fulham, whom he is leading towards promotion from the Nationwide League second division.

Having decided that he was the best man for the job, the lack of alternatives ensured that the FA would be forced to accede to Keegan's demands. He made it clear, from his first discussions with the FA's sub-committee on Monday, that he would not be available full-time, and he would not be persuaded otherwise over three days of negotiations. In the murky world of football, Keegan has proved a rare man of his word.

The problems of such a compromise are immediately obvious, not the least of which is that Keegan will only be devoting some of his time to a job that has consumed every waking hour — and many of the sleeping ones as well — of more experienced coaches than him. The impossible job has become the part-time one.

Of equal concern is the uncertainty that will inevitably beset the players, who are faced with a critical European championship qualifying match against Poland at Wembley on March 27. Their prepara-

rations for such an important game may be distracted by the inevitable speculation as to who may succeed Keegan in the summer, although the FA emphasised last night that it would attempt to be low-key in its deliberations and would not be issuing weekly bulletins.

The FA argued last night that it had appointed the best man available, even if only for the interim. "I do not think it is desperation," David Davies, the FA's executive director, said yesterday. "That is the first time I have heard 'desperation' used in the last three days. We are not in limbo, we



'We have got the nation's choice... he is the best person for the job'

— David Davies yesterday

are anything but. We have got the nation's choice leading England in some crucial games between now and June. We have sought and got the best person for the job."

Sympathy should be expressed for the FA's stance. The length of contract until June will give both parties the chance to see if they are compatible. Keegan can find out if he is as capable of motivating international players as he is club footballers, while the FA will discover if he has the strength of character to fill a post that tests the toughest of men.

Given Keegan's notorious

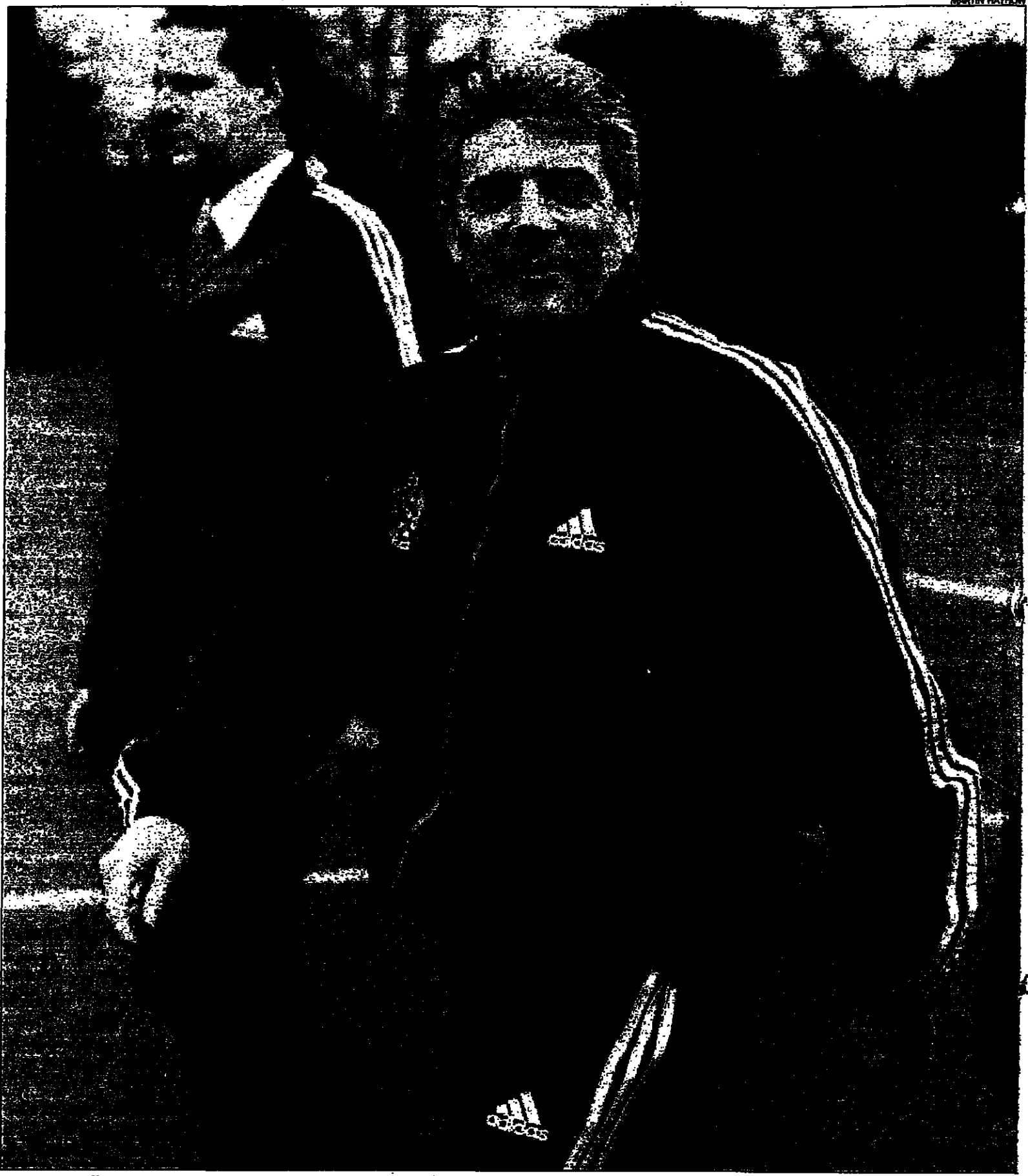
volatility, some will argue that it would have been unwise to look beyond the summer anyway. England's position, moreover, may have dramatically changed by then, as may the circumstances of the country's leading managers. If England drop qualifying points against Poland next month and then Sweden and Bulgaria in June, they may have lost all hope of reaching the European championship finals in 2000, in which case it might prove sensible to groom a younger man for the position.

If England have won all those games, Keegan the patriot may feel the duty to stay with England, although he is still adamant that he will remain with Fulham until June 2000. If not, other options may have emerged by then. Perhaps Alex Ferguson will have won the European Cup with Manchester United and decided that he could put aside his Scottish loyalties after all and coach England.

So, much as Keegan's appointment will be seen by many as an abdication of its responsibilities by the FA, its hands were tied by the lack of other options. Roy Hodgson was the only other name considered. Terry Venables was not discussed, while Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director, was not regarded as the charismatic leader needed in such troubled times.

However, Wilkinson, who led the England team in the 2-0 defeat against France last week, appears to have won a small battle to spread his influence over all the national teams. He is expected to be involved in some capacity in training sessions at Bisham Abbey, although Keegan has also been given the freedom to bring in two of his own backroom staff. Peter Beardsley and Arthur Cox remain the most likely candidates.

England's trip to Hungary on April 28 will mean that Keegan misses his club's match against Walsall, but he reassured his players — his Fulham ones, that is — that he would still be at the training ground for up to four days a week. The league season will have finished by the time that England face Sweden and Bulgaria and the FA remains confident that Keegan can complete the season with two teams at the top of their respective leagues.



Keegan sets off to work with his Fulham players yesterday before it was revealed that his loyalty to the club will prevent him from coaching England after June

Not a union of affection but a marriage of convenience

David Davies, the executive director of the Football Association, will not be flattered by the comparison, but he wore the slightly sheepish air of a love cheat on *The Jerry Springer Show* when he appeared live on television last night to unburden himself to the nation about his guilty secret. What we were expecting to hear, was that the agony was over, that the shame and the hiding of heads in hands that followed Glenn Hoddle's attempts to hang on to his job a fortnight ago were behind us, that we could throw ourselves wholeheartedly behind a new man. What we got instead was the warning that the search was not over with the appointment of Kevin Keegan. Actually, it was just beginning.

That was the moment when the shock started to hit home, the moment when the girlfriend stops sniffling in sympathy at Jerry and rushes snarling at her betrayer. Not only had the FA failed to persuade Keegan to forsake a Nationwide League second division club for his country for six months or 18 months, but Keegan had insisted point-blank, utterly and incontrovertibly, that he would not stay on as national coach beyond June.

Words such as "desperation" and "limbo" floated around Lancaster Gate. So suddenly, the man that most of the country believes is the best man for the job — apart from Terry Venables — appears to be treating that job as some sort of trifle, some cast-off that he

has agreed to partner for a night out but only so long as he makes it crystal clear he is doing it under duress.

What we had wanted from Keegan, above all, was his passion, the unfettered, watery-eyed commitment that he brings to everything he touches. But this is not passion.

Passion does not have a four-match limit, patriotism is not measured in snatched four-day stints at Bisham Abbey.

Now, even though the FA suggests that Keegan is the short-term answer, the man to get England out of the hole that Hoddle dug it into, it has said that it will begin the search for a "permanent successor" today at the very time, presumably, that it is unveiling Keegan halfway up the Edgware Road.

If there had been the promise, even the hope, that this could be just the start, that if things went well then Keegan would stay on to lead England through the European championships, then it might be different.

OLIVER HOLT



Football Correspondent

That scenario might at least allow the fans to suspend their disbelief and believe that Keegan wants to do the job as much they want him to do it.

This way, the FA has opened a Pandora's Box. How, for instance, will it pitch its approach to the man it begins to

course, and, improbably, this could still have a happy ending, but the FA should not have allowed itself to be dictated to to this degree.

If these were Keegan's terms for the job, the FA should have dissociated itself from him after their first conversation, tempting though it was to hitch itself to the bandwagon that would have rolled if he had shown more commitment to the task that awaits him.

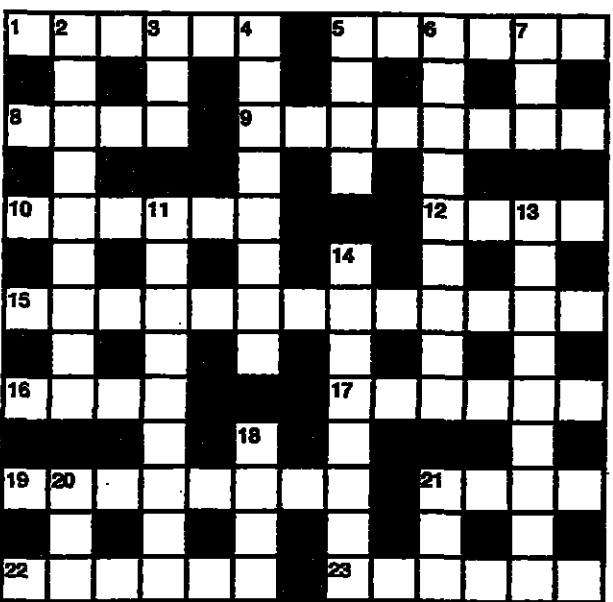
Now, England and their shell-shocked band of internationalists face the surreal prospect of being managed by four different men — Hoddle, Howard Wilkinson, Keegan and the new man — in the space of four months. It sounds more like Atlético Madrid than the England team.

Handled rightly, the part-time arrangement might have worked. Given Keegan's dynamism and drive, it might still work, but now it will be against all odds. It has certainly started on the wrong foot, reeking of fudge and compromise and a man who has successfully held a supine FA to ransom.

Keegan, we are told, will not take charge of the under-21 side, that he has not succeeded in banning Wilkinson from Bisham Abbey, he has not been invested with any illusion of permanence.

The nation will still do its best to get behind him and he will try to carry them with him, but this is not a union of love and affection, it is a marriage of convenience that is hardly being given a chance to blossom.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1644

ACROSS

- 1 A seabird; armful (anag.) (6)
- 5 High on drugs; pelted (6)
- 8 (Medieval) Spanish Muslim (4)
- 9 Section of wood (8)
- 10 Wrench (joint) (6)
- 12 A taunt (4)
- 15 Murder of public figure (13)
- 16 Unproductive (4)
- 17 Dally (6)
- 19 Vagabonds; a government house (8)
- 21 Minor panic (slang); beat (wing) (4)
- 22 Terrifying woman (6)
- 23 Cope with (6)

DOWN

- 2 Nem con (9)
- 3 Spoil (3)
- 4 Imprudence (8)
- 5 Dispose of (4)
- 6 Borneo ape (5-4)
- 7 Proverbially slippery fish (3)
- 11 Ballet position; flowing design (9)
- 13 Weapon; recoil unpleasantly (9)
- 14 America personified (5-3)
- 18 Not so much (4)
- 20 Embrace (3)
- 21 Part of fish; sounds like a European (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1643

- ACROSS: 7 Trade 8 Peevish 9 Appease 10 Pulse 11 Dock 12 Vineyard 15 Profit 16 Gum 19 Shore 21 Angular 22 Legally 23 Prado

- DOWN: 1 Strand 2 Gaspacho 3 Relax 4 Perplex 5 Girl 6 Thread 8 Preliminary 13 All clear 14 Firefly 15 Pesticide 17 Maroon 18 Agape 20 Orgy

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